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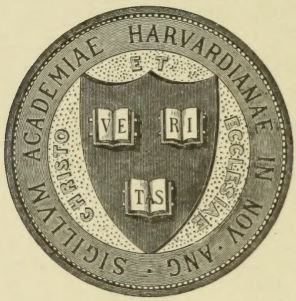

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EDITED BY

W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT.

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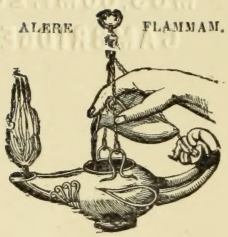

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PREFACE.

The number of attendances at the Meetings of the British Ornithologists' Club during the 21st Session, 1912–1913, was 401 (this included 328 Members and 73 Visitors), showing an average of nearly 45 per meeting, as against 52 in the previous Session. The falling off in numbers was no doubt due to the fact that no exhibition of Lantern-slides took place in March.

It is with very deep regret that we have to record the death of our Chairman, Dr. P. L. Sclater, who had occupied that position since the commencement of the Club in October 1892. At the last meeting of the Session he was too ill to be present and receive the testimonial and piece of plate which were to have been presented to him in recognition of his long and valuable services. He will be sadly missed by the Members of the Club.

Other well-known and much lamented members who passed away during the Session were the veteran zoologist Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, Mr. Henry J. Pearson, at one time a Vice-Chairman and until lately a regular attendant of the meetings, and Dr. Edward A. Wilson, whose loss is specially deplored.

The interest attaching to the meetings of the Club has been well maintained during the Session, and many new and rare species of Birds have been exhibited for the first time. The most important collection shown was no doubt

that brought home by Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston and Mr. C. B. Kloss from their successful expedition to Mount Carstensz in Dutch New Guinea.

Mr. G. W. Bury succeeded in reaching the mountains in the interior of Yemen, S. Arabia, and, as was to be expected, his enterprise was rewarded by the discovery of a number of novelties inhabiting the higher altitudes of those barren ranges.

Mr. J. D. La Touche, acting on behalf of the B. O. C., has continued his investigation of the migration of birds in Eastern China, and has forwarded another large collection of Summer-migrants from Chin-wang-tao, which should prove of great interest.

(Signed) W R. OGILVIE-GRANT,
Editor.

August 20th, 1913.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended, August 13th,* 1913.)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Ordinary Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *One Pound* and a subscription of *Five Shillings* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session, shall cease, *ipso facto,* to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears, *and* a new entrance fee.

III. Ordinary Members of the British Ornithologists' Union may be introduced as Visitors at the Meetings of the Club, but every Member of the Club who introduces a Member of the B. O. U. as a Visitor (to the dinner or to the Meeting afterwards) shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer, *on each occasion.*

IV. No gentleman shall be allowed to attend the Meetings of the Club as a guest on more than three occasions during any single Session.

V. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Second Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

VI. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *One Shilling* each.

VII. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of the Chairman, who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election, the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' the Secretary and Treasurer, and the Editor of 'The Ibis,' *ex officio*, with three other Members, one of whom shall be changed every year. The Committee shall have power to make and alter Bye-laws.

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[Members are requested to keep the Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses.]

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AND OTHER PERSONS REFERRED TO.

Astley, H. D. Exhibition of two living examples of *Psephotus dissimilis*, 55.

Baker, E. C. Stuart. Exhibition of clutches of eggs of *Falco severus* and *F. peregrinator*, 8.

——. Remarks on eggs of the Cranes, 24.

——. Exhibition of a series of eggs of Asiatic parasitic Cuckoos, and eggs of their foster parents, 34.

——. Description of a new subspecies of Warbler (*Acanthopneuste trochiloides harterti* from Khasia Hills, 36.

——. Exhibition and description of a new species of Thrush (*Oreocincla whiteheadi*) from the Khaghan Valley, with notes by Capt. C. H. T. Whitehead, 79–80.

——. Remarks on *Oreocincla mollissima* and *O. dixoni*, 81.

——. Correction of his description of *Acanthopneuste trochiloides harterti*, 82.

——. Exhibition of eggs of various Indian birds, 82–83.

Bannerman, D. A. Exhibition and description of a new subspecies of Oyster-catcher (*Hæmatopus niger meade-waldoi*) from the Canary Islands, 33.

——. Description of a new species of Thrush (*Turdus swynnertoni*) from Rhodesia, 56.

——. Remarks on the Lesser Black-backed Gull found in the Canary Islands, 69, 70.

Bidwell, E. Remarks on Starlings supposed to be double-brooded, 64, 65.

——. On the "coming of age" of the B.O.C., with suggestion that it should be celebrated in some suitable way, 70.

Borrer, Clifford. Exhibition of a variety of the Song-Thrush and of skins of the Continental Song-Thrush, 20.

——. Exhibition of a variety of the Wheatear (*Œnanthe œnanthe*), 111.

——. Exhibition of two clutches of red eggs of the Common Tern, 112.

Bunyard, P. F. Exhibition of remarkably coloured eggs, 20–21.
——. Exhibition of eggs, 28.
——. Exhibition of eggs of the Golden-eye and of Barrow's Golden-eye, 28.
——. Exhibition and remarks on some abnormally coloured eggs, 62.
——. Exhibition of a Kingfisher showing variation in plumage, 62.
——. Exhibition of eggs, down, and body-feathers of various species of Grey Geese, 70, 71.

Chubb, C. On behalf of Mr. F. V. McConnell, exhibition of examples of *Berlepschia rikeri*, *Chlorophonia roraimæ*, and *Oceanodroma leucorrhoa* from the Essequibo River, 39.
——. On the priority of *Myiospiza humeralis* (Bosc) over *M. manimbe* (Licht.). *Topaza smaragdulus* (Bosc) is the female of *T. pella* (Linn.), 39.
Clarke, Colonel Stephenson. On a shooting-trip in British E. Africa, 31.
——. Exhibition of rare birds, 32
——. Description of two new species, *Heterhyphantes golandi* and *Laniarius quadricolor nigricauda*, 32.
——. Exhibition and description of two new African birds, *Stizorhina vulpina intermedia* and *Caprimulgus ludovicianus*, 108.
Clarke, W. Eagle. *See* Ticehurst, C. B., 113.
Collett, Prof. Robert. Notice of death of, 44.
Committee, Election of, 1.
Courtois, Rev. J. Description of a new species of Pucras Pheasant (*Pucrasia joretiana*) from the Province of Anhwei, 7.

Fagan, C. E. On G. W. Bury's Expedition to Yemen, 85–86.

Grant, C. H. B. Amended name, *Heteromirafra ruddi*, for *Heteronyx ruddi*, 114.
Gurney, J. H. Exhibition of a copy of Major's 'Chronicle' (1521), 54.

Hale, Rev. J. R. Exhibition of a cinnamon-coloured Blackbird, 20.
——. Exhibition of eggs of the Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), 20.
Harington, Major H. H. Description of a new subspecies of Swift (*Cypselus pacificus cooki*) from the Northern Shan States, 57.
——. Exhibition and description of new subspecies of Indian birds (*Suya crinigera cooki*, *S. c. yunnanensis*, *Prinia inornata burmanica*, and *P. i. formosa*), 109–111.

Hartert, Dr. Ernst. Account of his journey to the Western Sahara, 2.
——. Exhibition and description of new birds from the Islands of Molucca and from Uganda: *Phyllergates cucullatus batjanensis*, *Stoparola panayensis obiensis* and *Cossypha somereni*, 2–3.
——. Exhibition of an example of *Calamocichla jacksoni*, 3.
——. Description of a new form of Starling (*Æthiopsar cristatellus formosanus*) from the Island of Formosa, 14.
——. On behalf of Mr. E. Stresemann, on a new species of Flycatcher (*Abrornis sakaiorum*) from the Malay Peninsula, 27.
——. Exhibition and description of a new subspecies of Barn-Owl from the Cape Verde Is. (*Tyto alba detorta*), 38.
Hellmayr, C. E. Description of two new subspecies: *Grallaria guatemalensis aripoensis* and *Geotrygon linearis* from the Island of Trinidad, 13.

Ingram, C. Remarks on examples of the Greater Bird-of-Paradise released on Little Tobago, 63.
Iredale, T. Exhibition and remarks on the type-specimen of *Larus affinis* Reinh. *Larus fuscus antelius* amended name for the larger form of the Lesser Black-backed Gull, 69.

Jackson, Sir Frederick J. Description of a new species of Cuckoo-Shrike (*Campophaga martini*) from British East Africa, 18.
Jourdain, Rev. F. C. R. Exhibition of eggs of the Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum gibbericeps*), 24.
——. On the importance of keeping of incubation-records, 25.
——. Remarks on supposed breeding of *Corvus corax* in the Balearic Isles, 98.

Kelsall, Major H. J. Exhibition of an abnormal specimen of the Standard-winged Nightjar (*Macrodipteryx macrodipterus*), 76.
——. Description of a new species of Shrike (*Laniarius helenæ*) from Sierra Leone, 85.
Kloss, C. Boden. Remarks on the distribution of some of the species obtained by the New Guinea Expedition, 106.

La Touche, J. D. Description of a new species of Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus tangorum*) from N.E. Chihli, China, 10.
Lynes, Capt. H. Remarks on *Lusciniola pryeri sinensis*, 12.

Mathews, G. M. Exhibition and remarks on the type of *Psephotus dissimilis* Collett, 55, 56.
——. Description of a new subspecies of Australian birds, *Ptilotis ornata westleydalei* & *P. o. underbooli*, 68.

Meade-Waldo, E. G. B. Remarks on the successful preservation of the Kite in Wales, 24.

——. Remarks on the Lesser Black-backed Gull of the Canary Islands, 69.

Munt, H. Exhibition of eggs of three Lories and a Pigeon, 63.

Ogilvie-Grant, W. R. Remarks on *Lusciniola pryeri sinensis*, 13.

——. Remarks on *Abrornis albigularis formosana* Laubmann = *Cryptolopha fulvifacies* Swinh., 14.

——. Description of a new subspecies of Pheasant, *Phasianus strauchi chonensis*, from S.W. Kansu, 16.

——, Remarks on the progress of Mr. Wollaston's Expedition to New Guinea, 16.

——. On a new species of Seed-eater (*Poliospiza elgonensis*) from Mt. Elgon, 17.

——. Exhibition of a Golden-eye and remarks (illustrated by text-figures) on the differences between Barrow's Golden-eye and the common Golden-eye, 18–20, 29.

——. Exhibition of a variety of Blackbird, 20.

——. Exhibition of *Phasianus strauchi chonensis*, 27.

——. On behalf of Mr. R. M. Barrington: exhibition of a white variety of the Teal (*Querquedula crecca*), 38.

——. Remarks on a specimen of *Lagopus scoticus*, 41.

——. Remarks on a small collection and descriptions of new species of birds from Henderson Island, S. Pacific:—*Acrocephalus taiti*, *Vini hendersoni*, and *Porzana murrayi*, 58–61.

——. Remarks on an abnormally coloured Rook, 76.

——. Corrections and remarks on Birds from Henderson Island, 76.

——. Description and remarks on new species of birds collected by G. W. Bury in Yemen: *Turdus menachensis*, *Parisoma buryi*, *Œnanthe yemenensis*, *Accentor fagani*, *Poliospiza menachensis*, *Cryptolopha umbrovirens yemenensis*, and on a new genus and species, *Pseudacanthis yemenensis*, 86–91.

——. Exhibition of examples of the Mongolian Black-Grouse, *Lyrurus tetrix mongolicus*, 91.

——. On the expected return of Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston from New Guinea, 97.

——. Exhibition of a set of the birds obtained by Mr. Wollaston and Mr. Kloss during their ascent of Mt. Carstensz, 103.

——. Description of new birds (*Rallicula klossi*, *Mellopitta lugubris rostrata*, *Edoliisoma utakwensis*, *Anthus wollastoni*, and *Paradigalla intermedia*) from the Utakwa River, S.W. New Guinea, 104–106.

——. Exhibition and description of a new subspecies of Grosbeak, *Rhynchostruthus percivali yemenensis*, from the mountains of S. Yemen, 112.

Ogilvie-Grant, W. R. Remarks on the nest and eggs of the Hebridean Song-Thrush, 114.

——. Notification that in future an Agenda will be issued, if possible, before each meeting of the B.O.C., 114.

Pearson, H. J. Notice of the death of, 44.

Read, R. H. Remarks on the nesting-habits of certain birds, 63–64.

Rickett, C. B. Exhibition of a pale cinnamon-coloured variety of East Siberian Snipe (*Gallinago megala*), from Foochow, China, 10.

Rothschild, Hon. Walter. Remarks on Mr. Meek's proposed Expeditions, 17.

——. Exhibition and description of a new Weaver-Finch (*Foudia omissa*) from Madagascar, 26.

——. Exhibition of four female examples of the Common Pheasant, in melanistic plumage, 45.

——. Exhibition of pure-bred and hybrid Pheasants, 45.

——. Exhibition of melanistic Snipes, 46.

——. Exhibition of albino and abnormally coloured specimens, 46–51.

——. Exhibition of hybrid Parrots, Ducks, and Game-birds, 51–54.

——. Remarks on an abnormally coloured Kingfisher, 62.

——. Expression of regret at Dr. Sclater's accident. Presentation of address and piece of plate to W. L. Sclater for Dr. P. L. Sclater, 100, 101.

——. Welcome to Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston and Mr. C. Boden Kloss on their return from their successful ascent of Mt. Carstensz, New Guinea, 101.

——. Exhibition of adult, nestlings and eggs of *Rhamphocorys clot-bey*; eggs of *Erythrospiza githaginea zedlitzi* and *Lanius senator* from Algeria, 106.

——. Exhibition of three subspecies new to the Algerian Fauna (*Garrulus glandarius whitakeri*, *Chelidon daurica rufula*, and *Apus affinis galilejensis*), 107.

——. Remarks on his recent expedition to Algeria, 107.

Schwann, Geoffrey. Exhibition of an abnormally coloured Rook, 76.

Sclater, Dr. P. L. Notice of death of, 115.

Sclater, W. L. Expression of thanks for the address and piece of plate presented to his father, 101.

Seth-Smith, D. On the Budgerigar's power of imitating song, 21.

——. Exhibition of a nestling and egg of *Larus hemprichi*, 25.

——. On the incubation-period of eggs, 26.

Seth-Smith, L. M. Exhibition of and remarks on eggs from Uganda, 83, 84.

Smalley, F. W. Account of the moults of the Long-tailed Duck (*Harelda glacialis*), 7.

Stresemann, E. Exhibition and description of a new genus and species of Starling (*Leucopsar rothschildi*), and of other new species (*Turdus deningeri, Oreosterops pinale*, *Stigmatops monticola*, and *S. deningeri*) from the Moluccas, 4–6.

——. Exhibition of some Parrots collected in the Moluccas, 15.

Tegetmeier, W. B. Notice of the death of, 44.

Ticehurst, Dr. C. B. On behalf of Capt. C. H. T. Whitehead: exhibition of a series of *Motacilla citreoloides* from the Kaghan Valley, 75.

——. On behalf of W. Eagle Clarke: exhibition of examples of the Hebridean Song-Thrush, 113.

Wallis, H. M. Mimicry of the song of a Canary by a Budgerigar, 21.

——. List of the spring-migrants, winter-visitors, and residents observed by him in the Balkans, 92–96.

Whitehead, Capt. C. H. T. *See* Ticehurst, C. B., 75.

Wilson, Dr. E. A. Notice of the death of, 44.

Witherby, H. F. Statement of accounts, 10.

——. Exhibition and description of a new subspecies of Warbler, *Lusciniola pryeri sinensis*, from Hankow, 11.

——. Exhibition of a map of the World, presented by Captain H. Lynes, R.N., 25.

——. Exhibition of varieties of Game-birds (*Lyrurus tetrix*, *Phasianus colchicus*, and *Lagopus scoticus*), 39.

——. Exhibition of a series of Scandinavian and British Greyhens, 54.

——. Exhibition of a hybrid Wigeon and Teal, 74.

——. Exhibition and description of a new subspecies of Bunting (*Emberiza yessoensis continentalis*), from Nanking, China, 74.

——. Amended name, *Sitta europæa hispaniensis*, for *S. minor* Brehm., 77.

——. Announcement of the decision of the Members to present an address and silver token to Dr. P. L. Sclater on the completion of the 21st session of the Club, 96.

——. On the proposed Excursion to Selborne, 97.

Wollaston, A. F. R. Account of his Expedition to the Utakwa River, Dutch New Guinea, 102–103.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CLXXXI.

The hundred and seventy-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, the 9th of October, 1912.

Chairman: Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker, D. A. Bannerman, C. D. Borrer, P. F. Bunyard, W. Fitzherbert-Brockholes, E. Hartert, Ph.D., Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, G. E. Lodge, G. A. Macmillan, G. M. Mathews, H. Munt, T. H. Newman, T. Parkin, C. E. Pearson, F. G. Penrose, M.D., F. R. Ratcliff, G. Schwann, W. L. Sclater, F. C. Selous, D. Seth-Smith, E. Fraser Stanford, C. B. Ticehurst, M.R.C.S., N. F. Ticehurst, F.R.C.S., H. M. Wallis, J. Wilkinson.

Visitors:—G. R. Baynes, H. A. A. Dombrain, C. E. Fagan, I.S.O., J. O. Hartert, Godfrey Lambert, F. W. Smalley, E. Stresemann.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the Club the following Officers were elected for the ensuing Session, 1912–1913:—

P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., *Chairman*.
W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *Editor*.
H. F. Witherby, *Secretary and Treasurer*.
W. L. Sclater, *Editor of the 'Ibis'*.
E. Hartert.
C. B. Rickett (in place of W. L. Sclater).
N. F. Ticehurst.

Dr. Hartert gave an account of his journey to Tidikelt, in the centre of the Western Sahara, and illustrated his lecture by maps and examples of the birds which he collected during the trip. The outward journey was from Biskra *viâ* Touggourt, Ouargla, and El Golea, thus leading through stony desert, over sand-dunes and rocky mountain-ranges, and the return journey *viâ* El Golea to Ghardaïa and then across the eastern Mzab country to Touggourt and Biskra.

A full account of these travels and their results will be given in the Tring Museum Journal 'Novitates Zoologicæ.'

Dr. Ernst Hartert also exhibited and described three new birds from the Moluccan Islands and Uganda, as follows:—

Phyllergates cucullatus batjanensis, subsp. n.

Adult male. At once distinguished from *P. cucullatus dumasi* from Buru and Ceram (originally described as *P. everetti dumasi,* but these and other allied forms are doubtless representatives of *P. cucullatus*) by the colour of the abdomen, which is strongly suffused with olive, and by having the nape olivaceous as in *P. e. everetti* from Flores, not greenish washed with rufous as in *P. c. dumasi.* From typical *P. c. cucullatus* it differs in the colour of the nape, which is cinereous in the latter, and in the olivaceous wash on the abdomen. Wings 47–48·2 mm.

Hab. Batjan, Northern Moluccas.

Type in the Tring Museum: ♂. Batjan, 5000–7000 feet, vii. 02. J. Waterstradt coll.

Obs. Two males were obtained.

Stoparola panayensis obiensis, subsp. n.

Adult male and female. Nearest to *S. p. harterti* Van Oort, from Ceram, but differs from the latter in its much larger and wider bill, less whitish abdomen, which is pale blue suffused with buff, and in the darker and duller blue of the upper surface. Wings 79·5–80 mm.; in *S. p. harterti*

the wing is 72 (♀) to 78 (♂), and in *S. p. panayensis* it is over 80, at least in all males.

Hab. Obi Major, 2000 feet.

Type in the Tring Museum. Obi Major, 26. iv. 02. J. Waterstradt coll.

Obs. Two specimens were received from John Waterstradt. They were marked ♂ and ♀, but being much alike in size, are perhaps of the same sex.

In 1903 (Nov. Zool. x. p. 10) I pointed out the differences between the present form and *S. p. panayensis*, which lie chiefly in the longer and lighter blue feathers of the throat, shorter wing, and paler upperside. I have now examined additional Philippine examples and can no longer doubt the distinctness of the Obi form. These birds are inhabitants of the mountains and do not migrate.

Cossypha somereni, sp. n.

Adult. Colour of the crown deep ashy, almost slate, not washed with olive-green as in *C. polioptera* from Bukoba, nor with black as in *C. nigriceps* Rchw., from Kamerun. A wide white superciliary stripe from the nostril to the sides of the occiput, and a black line under the white superciliary stripe. In *C. polioptera* as well as in *C. nigriceps* the feathers of the supercilium have tiny black terminal points, while they are pure white in *C. somereni*. Underside bright ochraceous, not dull as in *C. nigriceps* and *C. polioptera*. Back rusty-olive. Quills blackish-brown, wing-coverts dark grey. Tail bright reddish-chestnut. Iris brown; bill black; feet horn. Slightly larger than its two allies. Culmen 16·5 mm.; wing 81; tail 68.

Hab. Kyetume, near Kampala, Uganda, 14. i. 11. Collected by Dr. von Someren.

Obs. I have to thank Professor Oscar Neumann for kindly comparing the type specimen with the types of the allied forms in the Berlin Museum.

Dr. Hartert further exhibited a specimen of *Calamocichla jacksoni*, collected by Dr. von Someren near Kampala in Uganda.

Mr. Erwin Stresemann (introduced by Dr. E. Hartert) exhibited some new birds collected by him during the second "Freiburger Molukken-Expedition," which he described as follows:—

Leucopsar, gen. n. (*Sturnidæ*.)

Structurally nearest to *Gracupica* Lesson, but with the bill differently shaped. Upper mandible with sharp, high, straight culmen, bent downwards near the tip. Nostrils completely covered by short bristles. Præorbital, post-orbital, and superciliary regions bare. Feathers of the occiput much elongated, forming a pendent crest.

Leucopsar rothschildi, sp. n.

Adult female. Pure white; a terminal black bar, 25 mm. wide, to all the rectrices. Primaries, including the first rudimentary one, with a black tip, increasing in width towards the middle. Iris dark brown; bill dirty brownish-yellow, base of the lower mandible blackish-grey; bare orbital region dark blue; feet light grey. Culmen 31 mm.; wing 133; inner rectrices 81; tarsus 44.

Hab. Island of Bali.

Type: ♀, No. 352. Bubunan, North Coast of Bali, 24. iii. 11. E. Stresemann coll.

Obs. I have named this remarkable new Starling in honour of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, in whose magnificent Museum I have had the privilege of working out my collections from the Eastern Archipelago.

Turdus deningeri, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Crown of the head, nape, sides of the head, chin, throat, and jugulum whitish, tinged with greyish-brown. Rest of the upper- and underside, wings, and tail brownish-black, this colour being sharply defined. Iris dark brown; eyelid yellow; bill and feet dark yellow. Wing 109–127 mm.; tail 90–100; tarsus 34.

Hab. Central Mountains of Middle Ceram, between 7000 and 8300 feet.

Type : ♂, No. 903. Gŭnŭng Pinaia, Ceram, 7500 feet, 18. viii. 11. E. Stresemann coll.

Obs. This species is named after my friend Dr. K. Deninger, the leader of the "II. Freiburger Molukken-Expedition." It belongs to the same group as *Turdus papuensis* (De Vis).

Oreosterops pinaiæ, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Crown and sides of the head dark grey. Throat, jugulum, and chest somewhat paler grey. Forehead and middle of the chin whitish, sometimes tinged with ochreous. A broad ring round the eye pure white. Middle of the breast and abdomen dirty white, washed with greyish-yellow. Back, upper tail-coverts, wing-coverts, and outer edges of the quills and tail-feathers olive-green. Iris rufous-brown; bill black, base of lower mandible pale grey or darkish grey-brown; feet light brownish-grey to greyish-olive. Wing: ♂ 72–77 mm., ♀ 71–73; tail 50–57; tarsus 22.

Hab. Central Mountains of Middle Ceram, above 4000 feet.

Type : ♂, No. 877. Gŭnŭng Pinaia, 7500 feet, 17. viii. 11. E. Stresemann coll.

Obs. This species has no near ally.

Stigmatops monticola, sp. n.

Adult male. Top of the head, neck, and back dark olive, lower back and upper tail-coverts greenish-olive, all the feathers being darker in the middle. Feathers of the chin, throat, and jugulum blackish-grey with white edges, which become wider on the chest; those of the breast and upper abdomen with more blackish middles. Lower abdomen and belly pale yellow, flanks washed with pale greenish-grey. Sides of the head in front, below, and behind the eye covered with brush-like glossy white feathers; ear-coverts yellowish-white. Quills blackish, with yellowish-olive outer and white

inner margins; inner secondaries almost entirely olive-green and margined round the tip with whitish-yellow. Tail-feathers greyish-olive, with yellowish-olive outer margins and narrow pale yellow inner edges. Iris brownish-grey; bill black, base of lower mandible and nasal groove wax-yellow.

Adult female. Like the male, but considerably smaller and without the brush-like feathers under the eye, this region being bare of feathers as in the female of *Stigmatops argentauris*.

Wing: ♂ 79–82 mm., ♀ 68–70.

Hab. Central Mountains of Middle Ceram, above 3000 feet.

Type: ♂, No. 696. Gŭnŭng Sofia, Middle Ceram, 4000 feet, 27.vi.11. E. Stresemann coll.

Obs. The nearest ally is probably *S. albiauricularis* Ramsay.

Stigmatops deningeri, sp. n.

Adult male. Chin, throat, and sides of the neck silvery-grey, jugulum and breast grey with yellowish edges. Middle of the belly and under tail-coverts yellowish, flanks greyish-yellow. Pileum and back dark olive, with dark grey middles to the feathers. Upper tail-coverts yellowish-green. Tail-feathers above yellowish-green, quills and upper wing-coverts blackish-grey with the outer edges yellowish-green. Lores, a line from the eye to the nape, and the ear-coverts silvery-grey. Feathers of the eyelid and patches of short brush-like feathers below the eye whitish-grey. Iris greyish-brown; bill black, basal half yellow; feet plumbeous.

Adult female. Somewhat lighter. Eyelid feathered as in the male, but with the patches of short feathers under the eye less numerous and pale yellow.

Wing: ♂ 74–79 mm., ♀ 66–69.

Hab. High mountains of Buru above 4000 feet.

Type: ♂, No. 1104. Gŭnŭng Fogha, N.W. Buru, 4500 feet, 25.ii.12. E. Stresemann coll.

On behalf of the Rev. J. Courtois, Mr. W. L. Sclater described a new species of Pucras Pheasant:—

Pucrasia joretiana, sp. n.

Adult male. Resembling *P. darwini* in most respects, but differing in the much heavier black markings on the back and sides of the breast, the absence of chestnut on the under tail-coverts, and the shape of the crest, which is shorter and more stumpy and is composed of broader feathers, rounded at the ends. From *P. xanthospila* it can be at once distinguished by the absence of the yellow patch on the nape.

Length 22·8 inches; wing 8·8; tail 7·8; tarsus 2·9; middle toe and claw 2·9.

Obs. Mr. Courtois, who is the Director of the Siccawei Museum near Shanghai, sent one example of this new species and states that he has two others in his Museum. All three come from the mountainous region of Hwosthan or Hochar, in the Province of Anhwei or Nganwei, at altitudes of 2000 to 5000 feet.

The type has been presented to the British Museum.

Mr. F. W. Smalley gave an account of his observations on the moults of the Long-tailed Duck (*Harelda glacialis*).

His conclusions, which he illustrated by a series of examples killed at different seasons of the year, were briefly as follows:—

1. The spring-moult in the male was not a complete one, the primaries, breast-shield, and feathers of the abdomen being retained; it was really a building-up process, as it were, from the breast-shield to the top of the head and a changing of the scapulars from grey to pale chestnut.

2. The complete moult in August was followed by a plumage perhaps corresponding to the eclipse-plumage of other ducks, in which the entire head and neck were white; and by the complete winter-dress, in which the cheeks were grey, and the black and chestnut patches on the sides of the neck were gradually assumed, reaching their full perfection in February.

3. In the female the August moult was complete and was followed by a dark plumage resembling the dark summer-plumage, and changing gradually into the winter-plumage, which was not complete till February. The summer-plumage was again assumed by a gradual and partial change in April.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited clutches of eggs of *Falco severus* and *Falco peregrinator*.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 13th of November, 1912, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.; the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members of the Club intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. Witherby, at 326 High Holborn, W.C.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor, also to supply him with a *written* account of anything intended for publication.]

(Signed)

L. W. Rothschild, *Chairman.* W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *Editor.* H. F. Witherby, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CLXXXII.

The hundred and eightieth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, the 13th of November, 1912.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, D.Sc., F.R.S.

Members present:—H. G. Alexander, E. C. Stuart Baker, D. A. Bannerman, C. D. Borrer, P. F. Bunyard, C. Chubb, A. Collett, E. V. Earle, The Earl of Gainsborough, E. Gibson, Rev. J. R. Hale, E. Hartert, Ph.D., C. Ingram, Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, G. E. Lodge, P. R. Lowe, M.D., Capt. H. Lynes, R.N., G. M. Mathews, H. Munt, E. Mackenzie Murray, T. H. Newman, M. J. Nicoll, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant (*Editor*), C. Oldham, H. L. Popham, Major F. W. Proctor, W. P. Pycraft, F. R. Ratcliff, R. H. Read, C. B. Rickett, Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S., W. L. Sclater, D. Seth-Smith, M. C. Seton, E. F. Stanford, J. H. Stenhouse, M.B., R.N., C. B. Ticehurst, M.B., N. F. Ticehurst, F.R.C.S., H. M. Wallis, H. F. Witherby (*Sec. & Treas.*).

Visitors:—A. F. L. Bacon, Capt. Dayrell Davies, R.N., H. A. Haines, Major E. M. Lafone, J. K. Stanford, J. C. Stevens, H. B. Stone, E. Stresemann.

The Treasurer made his annual statement as to the financial affairs of the Club, which were shown to be in a satisfactory state. Mr. C. D. Borrer had duly audited the accounts and certified them to be correct.

Mr. C. B. Rickett exhibited a pale cinnamon-and-whitish variety of the East Siberian Snipe (*Gallinago megala*) from Foochow.

On behalf of Mr. J. D. La Touche, Mr. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited and described a new species of Reed-Warbler which Mr. La Touche proposed to call:—

Acrocephalus tangorum, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Closely allied to *A. agricola* (Jerd.), which it resembles in all essential characters, such as the shape of the wing and the small size of the bastard-primary, but it differs from that species in having a dark blackish band above the pale superciliary stripe, and the general colour of the upperparts darker and browner. In all the specimens examined (twelve in number), which had been killed in August and September, the underparts from the throat downwards are very distinctly washed with bright rufous-buff.

Iris grey-brown; upper mandible black, lower mandible pinkish or yellowish flesh-colour; mouth yellow; legs plumbeous, soles greenish-yellow.

Total length about 127 mm.; wing 53; tail 51; tarsus 22.

Hab. China.

Type ♂, Chin-wang-tao, N.E. Chihli, 1. ix. 12. J. D. La Touche coll.

Obs. This Reed-Warbler is very common in the small millet (*Panicum italicum*, *P. miliaceum*, and *P. crus galli*) from the middle of August till about the 10th of September, but leaves shortly after the latter date. It is a silent bird at this season and hunts for its insect-prey about the stems of the millet, occasionally working its way to the heads of the stalks, where in the early morning it often remains a few seconds before flitting down to the next millet plant. It would seem to moult towards the end of August.

Mr. La Touche had presented three examples of this small Reed-Warbler to the British Museum. The name had been given in honour of his skilful Chinese collectors, the brothers Tang.

Mr. H. F. Witherby, in exhibiting examples of a new Warbler collected by Captain H. Lynes in China, remarked that by a curious coincidence Mr. La Touche had forwarded a description of the same species from specimens collected by himself at Chin-wang-tao. As Mr. Witherby had determined the bird to be new some three or four months ago, Mr. La Touche's description had very kindly been withdrawn.

Lusciniola pryeri sinensis, subsp. n.

Adult male and female. Summer-plumage. Differ from *L. p. pryeri* (Seebohm) in the much less rufous colouring of the upperparts; the whiter colour of the breast and belly; and in having a rather longer tail. General colour of the upperparts bright brownish-buff striped with black, the feathers being black broadly margined with bright brownish-buff, the black markings being more restricted on the upper tail-coverts; forehead with only narrow streaks of black; lores and stripe over the eye whitish; ear-coverts and sides of neck brownish; throat, breast, and belly white, the sides, flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts bright buff. Under wing-coverts and axillaries greyish-white; wing-feathers brownish-black, with broad buff edgings to the outer webs; the four innermost secondaries with the outer webs deep black margined with bright buff. Tail buffish-brown with black shaft-stripes, narrow on the outer feathers and becoming much broader on the middle feathers. First primary 6–9 mm. longer than the longest primary-covert and about half the length of the second primary; second primary between the eighth and tenth and 7–9 mm. shorter than the third; third 2 mm. shorter than the fourth and fifth, which are almost equal and longest; sixth 3 mm. shorter than the fifth; seventh to tenth decreasing in steps of 2 mm. Tail long, much graduated and composed of

twelve feathers, the outermost pair about 10 mm. shorter than the penultimate pair, the middle pair being slightly the longest. Under tail-coverts long, extending to between the outer and penultimate pairs of tail-feathers, and sometimes to the tips of the penultimate pair.

♂. Bill (from nostril) 6½ mm.; wing 59, 57, and 56; tail 62 and 61 (worn), 46 (much worn).

♀. Bill (from nostril) 6½ mm.; wing 54, 53, and 51; tail 54, 54 (worn), 47 (much worn).

"Iris dark umber; legs and feet pallid flesh-colour." (*H. Lynes.*)

Type in Coll. H. F. Witherby: ♂, No. 1863. Hankow, 20. iii. 12. H. Lynes coll.

Obs. Six specimens were collected by Captain H. Lynes, R.N., at Hankow, China, between the 11th and 29th of March, 1912. I am much indebted to Mr. Ogilvie-Grant for pointing out to me the close relationship between this bird and *L. pryeri.*

All six specimens of this new Warbler are undergoing a complete moult, but in most the new body-feathers are fully grown. The wings are in various stages of moult, but in the type specimen the wing-feathers are almost fully grown. None of the specimens have new tail-feathers showing, but in some the outer feathers have dropped. The graduated tail and the long under tail-coverts are characteristic of *Locustella,* but in *Lusciniola major* the tail is almost as much graduated, though the under tail-coverts are not quite so long.

Captain Lynes then made some remarks on the nature of the country where he had met with this small Warbler and on its habits. He believed that it was a winter-visitor to the Hankow district, which was probably near the eastern limit of its winter-range, and that it left its winter-quarters at the end of March or early in April, and was almost certainly a Palæarctic breeding-species. In winter it inhabited the swamps near Hankow, which were thickly overgrown with reeds, and was very retiring in its habits and

difficult to flush. It had a Warbler-like song (quite unlike the "reel" of a Grasshopper-Warbler), which was heard in spring just before the bird migrated north on the approach of the breeding-season and possibly also during the winter months.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant said that this new species, of which Mr. La Touche had also obtained three examples at Chinwang-tao, in April and October 1911, and which he had recently forwarded for identification, was evidently most closely allied to *Lusciniola pryeri* (Seebohm) from Japan. That species had been referred by its original describer to the Timeline genus *Megalurus*, on account of its form, style of markings, and coloration.

Mr. C. E. Hellmayr and Count Seilern sent descriptions of two new subspecies of birds from the Island of Trinidad, which they proposed to call:—

Grallaria guatimalensis aripoensis, subsp. n.

Adult. Nearest to *G. g. regulus* Scl., from the Andes of Ecuador and Western Venezuela (Mérida), but smaller, with the underparts much brighter, deeper ferruginous, and the black squamate markings of the back decidedly broader.

♂ *ad.* Bill 33–34 mm.; wing 102–105; tail 32–36.

♀ *ad.* „ 32–33 „ ; „ 101–105; „ 34–37.

Hab. The Aripo Mountains, in the northern part of Trinidad, B.W.I., at elevations of 2000 feet.

Type in the Zoological Museum, Munich: ♂. Aripo, Trinidad, 30. viii. 12. S. M. Klages coll.

Obs. Mr. Klages collected a large series of this new Ant-Thrush in August and September 1912. The genus *Grallaria* has not previously been recorded from Trinidad, and is a very interesting addition to the avifauna of that island.

Geotrygon linearis trinitatis, subsp. n.

Adult. Nearly related to *G. l. venezuelensis* Salvad., from Northern Venezuela, but much smaller, with considerably weaker legs and toes. The upper wing-coverts and outer webs of the remiges are olive-brown with a hardly per-

ceptible rufescent tinge, instead of warm rufous-brown; the fore-neck and breast strongly shaded with cinereous, much less suffused with brownish; the flanks and under tail-coverts much paler fulvous-brown; the hind-crown purplish-brown like the nape, lacking the clear cinereous colour which is so prominent a feature in the continental form.

Bill 14½–16 mm.; wing 138–142; tail 95–97.

Hab. The Aripo Mountains, in the northern part of Trinidad, B.W.I., at elevations of 2000 feet.

Type in the Zoological Museum, Munich: ♀. Aripo, Trinidad, 4 ix. 12. S. M. Klages coll.

Obs. A small series of this well-characterized Mountain-Pigeon was procured in September 1912. Mr. Cherrie had already obtained a single example in the same locality, but owing to lack of material it was identified with the mainland form, from which, however, it is obviously distinct.

Dr. E. Hartert described a new form of Starling from Formosa as follows:—

Æthiopsar cristatellus formosanus, subsp. n.

Adult. Differs from *Æ. c. cristatellus*, from China, and *Æ. c. brevipennis*, from Hainan, in having the frontal crest more developed, and attaining a length of 23 to 27 mm. in adult males, against 15 to 18 mm. in the two allied races. In colour and size it resembles *Æ. c. cristatellus*.

Hab. Island of Formosa.

Type in the Tring Museum: ♂. No. F 112. Bankoro, Central Formosa, 6. v. 07. Procured by Mr. Owston's Japanese collectors.

Obs. Twenty specimens have been compared.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant said that as the Meeting had just been hearing of a new Formosan Starling he would like to point out that the recently described *Abrornis albigularis formosana* was founded on immature examples of *Cryptolopha fulvifacies* (Swinh.), and that adult Formosan specimens were absolutely identical with those from China. All the characters given by Dr. Laubmann (Orn. Monatsb. xx. p. 174, Nov. 1912)—namely, the whiter throat and

yellower breast-band—were characters of youth, as was clearly shown by the series of these small Flycatchers in the British Museum.

Mr. Erwin Stresemann (introduced by Dr. Hartert) exhibited some of the Parrots collected by him during the second "Freiburger Molukken-Expedition," and made the following remarks :—

"1. *Prioniturus mada* Hartert was common on the mountains of Buru above 3500 feet, and was observed flying about in flocks. This species had been hitherto only known from three specimens, all apparently females; the male remained unknown.

"2. *Eos semilarvata* Bonap. During the ascent of the Gŭnŭng Pinaia, the highest mountain of Ceram (8250 feet), a series of this species was collected at elevations between 5000 and 6000 feet. This bird had been described by Bonaparte in 1850, but its habitat was hitherto unknown.

"3. *Trichoglossus hæmatodus mitchelli* Gray. The home of this Parrot was also unknown for many years, but in 1896 Doherty and Everett discovered it on Lombok. I was fortunate in finding it also on the Island of Bali."

With regard to the zoo-geographical relations of Bali, as shown by its Ornis, he said that of the 151 species now known to occur on that island, and of which a list would be published in the 'Novitates Zoologicæ,' a great number were also found in Java, but not elsewhere. Two species (*Gracupica tertia* Hartert and *Trichoglossus hæmatodus mitchelli* Gray) were confined to Bali and Lombok, while six other species extended over a number of the islands forming the Lesser Sunda Chain as far west as Bali, but were not found in Java. Only five forms were confined to the island of Bali. Although the strait of Lombok, through which "Wallace's line" passed, did not form a sharp boundary of two faunal regions, recent explorations had shown that the difference of the Ornis of the two islands of Bali and Lombok was greater than that between any other two islands of the Sunda Chain from Timor to Sumatra.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant described a new Pheasant which had been procured by Mr. George Fenwick-Owen in South-western Kansu during his recent expedition to Central Asia.

Phasianus strauchi chonensis, subsp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *P. strauchi* Prjev., which it resembles in having the chest bronze-red, but of a darker hue; it differs principally in the darker bronze-gold colour of the mantle, the dark greenish bronze-red margins of the scapulars, and in the very much wider bars across the tail-feathers. In this latter respect it approaches *P. süeh-shanensis* Bianchi, from N.W. Sze-chuan, and *P. elegans* from South-west Sze-chuan, West Yunnan, &c., but is easily distinguished from both these forms by having the chest bronze-red instead of dark green, and the middles of the scapulars largely creamy-white as in *P. strauchi*. It stands, in fact, in an intermediate position between *P. strauchi* and *P. süehshanensis*, but is most nearly allied to the former.

P. strauchi inhabits the Sining Mts. and the Tatung Mts. and valley to the east of Koko-nor.

Hab. Banks and tributaries of the Tau River in the Chone District of S.W. Kansu, and among the foot-hills of the North Peling Mts., at elevations varying from 6000–9000 feet.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. Tau River, 7000 feet. G. Fenwick-Owen coll.

Obs. This interesting new Pheasant, together with examples of other species, has recently been presented to the British Museum by Mr. Fenwick-Owen. It was so numerous in some of the valleys that three guns might easily have killed five hundred birds in a day. It was always found near cultivation, but retired to the bush-clad hills and river-belts at night.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant said that he was sure all the Members of the Club would be glad to learn that Mr. Wollaston and his party had reached the southern coast of Dutch New Guinea about the 18th of September, and had formed a base-camp on the Oetakwa River, as far up as the water was navigable for their launch. Mr. Kloss reported that

after one week of strenuous work almost the whole of the stores had been transported from the mouth of the river to the base-camp, and that he hoped very shortly to start collecting at about 3000 ft.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild said that he had recently heard from Mr. A. S. Meek, who informed him that he was leaving Sydney in December for Port Moresby to pick up his native boys, and that until the change of the monsoon he intended to explore the mountains of Fergusson and Goodenough Islands above 3000 ft. After that it was his intention to proceed to the Admiralty Islands, visiting Dampier, St. Mathias, and other small islands on his way there.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant described a new species of Seed-eater from East Africa. He said :—"In Mr. F. J. Jackson's collection there are two adult male examples of a species of *Poliospiza* obtained at Mangiki, Mt. Elgon, 6000 ft., in June and August 1900. These specimens have been identified as *P. tristriata*, but are really very distinct and have a much longer wing. The most closely allied form appears to be *P. leucoptera* (Sharpe) from South Africa, which has the same double whitish band across the wing formed by the tips of the median and greater coverts ; but in that species the bill is much stouter and the wing is much shorter.

"I propose to name the bird from Mount Elgon

"Poliospiza elgonensis, sp. n.

"*Adult male.* General colour above earthy-brown ; superciliary stripes white and extending to the occiput ; sides of the feathers of the crown also white, giving these parts a distinctly streaked appearance ; lores, cheeks, ear-coverts, and sides of the throat dark earthy-brown, median and greater wing-coverts and outer margins of the quills, especially the innermost secondaries, whitish, the light tips of the wing-coverts forming two bars across the wing ; chin and middle of the throat whitish, with a few faint streaks

of brownish; breast and sides of the body pale brown indistinctly mottled with whitish; belly and under tail-coverts whitish. Wing 82–85 mm.; tail 57–58.

"The present species resembles *P. reichardi* Reich. in the coloration of the upperparts, but the breast and sides are not streaked. It seems quite certain that *P. elgonensis* is not founded on fully adult examples of *P. reichardi*, for the latter has been found breeding in its striped plumage.

"*Hab.* Mt. Elgon, 6000 ft.

"Type in the British Museum: ♂. Mangiki, 14. vi. 00. Presented by Mr. F. J. Jackson."

Mr. F. J. Jackson forwarded the description of a new species of Cuckoo-Shrike from Uganda, which had hitherto been confounded with the West African *Campophaga quiscalina* Finsch; he proposed to name it

Campophaga martini, sp. n.

Adult male. Similar to the male of *C. quiscalina*.

Adult female. Differs from the female of *C. quiscalina* in having the chest and rest of the underparts much paler yellow, and the white throat, chest, sides of the breast and flanks finely barred with dusky. Wing 100 mm.

Hab. British East Africa and Uganda, 6000–7000 ft.

Types in the British Museum: ♂. Nandi, 6500 ft., 2. v. 98. ♀. Ravine, 7500 ft., 23. viii. 97. F. J. Jackson coll.

Obs. This species, which had hitherto been overlooked, I have named in honour of Mr. James Martin, of the Mabira Rubber Estate, who is well known throughout East Africa and Uganda.

I have presented the types of this Cuckoo-Shrike to the British Museum.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited a Golden-eye which had been shot by Mr. F. Menteith Ogilvie on the River Alde, Suffolk, on the 1st of February, 1908. This bird was at the time believed to be an immature male of Barrow's Golden-eye (*Clangula islandica*) [*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. xxiii. pp. 63–65 (1909)], but it had now been conclusively proved to be a Common Golden-eye (*C. glaucion*).

It had hitherto been considered a matter of great difficulty to distinguish immature males of the two species, but Mr. Ogilvie-Grant said that he had been fortunate in finding a character by which they might always be recognized at a comparatively early period. The black and white inner scapular feathers which formed such a conspicuous feature in the adult bird began to make their appearance in young males killed towards the end of November. These white and black feathers, though much alike in general appearance, were structurally quite different in the two species. In Barrow's Golden-eye the black lateral portion was produced into a long process extending much beyond the white portion, while in the Common Golden-eye the white feather was of the usual shape, margined on the side with black. Moreover, the young of *C. islandica* had the general colour of the head much darker and of a blackish-brown, while in *C. glaucion* it was rufous-brown, much like that of the female.

Clangula islandica.

Clangula glaucion.

Mr. Ogilvie, writing of the doubtful specimen killed by him on the Alde River, stated that he too had arrived at the conclusion that it was a Common Golden-eye. He remarked: "I also know of a character which appears to me to be a good one for separating *C. islandica* from *C. glaucion* at any age. There is a 'boss' on the frontal bone imme-

diately above the bill in *C. islandica* which is absent in *C. glaucion*."

Barrow's Golden-eye must therefore be removed from the List of British Birds, though its occasional presence in winter off our coasts can scarcely be doubted.

Mr. Clifford Borrer exhibited a variety of the Song-Thrush (*Turdus musicus*), taken at Tunbridge Wells in June 1911. The bird was immature and showed a well-defined white superciliary stripe, the remainder of the plumage being a good deal mottled with white. He also exhibited some skins of the continental Song-Thrush, shot on the Norfolk coast during a very remarkable migration on the 25th September, 1912.

The Rev. J. R. Hale exhibited a pale cinnamon-coloured Blackbird (*Turdus merula* Linn.), which had been shot at Lydd, Kent, in October 1911. He also showed eggs of the Budgerigar, or Grass-Parroquet (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), laid in captivity. The eggs, which were of a light bluish colour, were remarkable for their extremely small size, about equal to those of the Long-tailed Titmouse, and from the fact that all three had been laid in one day.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant also exhibited a remarkable-looking variety of the Blackbird, sent to him by Major B. K. W. Bacon from Llanegan, N. Wales, on the 8th of November, 1912. The bird, which was a female, had a wide white collar round the back of the neck, the rest of its plumage being normal.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited clutches of remarkably coloured eggs of the following species:—

Swallow. (*Hirundo rustica.*) A clutch of five eggs, Kent, June 1896.

Song-Thrush. (*Turdus musicus.*) A clutch of four eggs, Surrey, 15th June, 1912.

Crossbill. (*Loxia curvirostra.*) A clutch of five eggs, Suffolk, 12th May, 1911.

Nightjar. (*Caprimulgus europæus.*) Suffolk, 1911.

Common Teal. (*Nettion crecca.*) A clutch of eight pure white eggs, S. Varanger, 24th June, 1912.

Great Black-backed Gull. (*Larus marinus.*) One clutch of three eggs, having white ground and normal markings. Sweden.

Common Puffin. (*Fratercula arctica.*) Co. Kerry. Two finely scrolled specimens.

Mr. H. M. Wallis read a letter from Mr. James Glenny, in which the latter described the singing of a Budgerigar which could imitate the voice of a Canary so perfectly, that it was impossible to detect which bird was singing.

Mr. Seth-Smith stated that he had known similar instances of the imitative power of these birds, and that he had known individuals which had not only learnt to sing like a Canary, but had also learnt to talk.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 11th of December, 1912, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.; the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members of the Club intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. Witherby, at 326 High Holborn, W.C.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor, also to supply him with a *written* account of anything intended for publication.]

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *Editor.* H. F. Witherby, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CLXXXIII.

The hundred and eighty-first Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, the 11th of December, 1912.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, D.Sc., F.R.S.

Members present:—H. G. Alexander, E. C. Stuart Baker, D. A. Bannerman, J. L. Bonhote, S. Boorman, C. D. Borrer, W. Fitzherbert Brockholes, P. F. Bunyard, C. Chubb, Guy L. Ewen, C. Garnett, E. Gibson, F. H. C. Gould, C. H. B. Grant, A. F. Griffith, E. Hartert, Ph.D., G. B. Hony, Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, G. M. Mathews, E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, H. Munt, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant (*Editor*), C. E. Pearson, Major F. W. Proctor, F. R. Ratcliff, C. B. Rickett, B. B. Riviere, F.R.C.S., Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S., A. D. Sapsworth, G. Schwann, H. Schwann, W. L. Sclater, D. Seth-Smith, M. C. Seton, A. Thorburn, N. F. Ticehurst, F.R.C.S., H. F. Witherby (*Sec. & Treas.*), R. O. Wynne.

Visitors:—John Borrer, S. Russell Cooke, G. A. B. Dewar, H. A. P. Disney, H. S. L. Fry, Leander Goodhart, J. C. Hartert, Henry Maurice, A. H. Meiklejohn, Philip Mills, S. L. Whymper.

Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo (Treasurer of the "Kite Fund") made the following statement :—

"At the commencement of the recent nesting-season we knew of ten pairs of Kites, and nests of nine pairs were located. Of this number three pairs successfully reared broods of three, two, and two young respectively; three nests were taken, and one, in a new locality, contained addled eggs, probably due to over zeal on the part of the watchers. An eighth nest was forsaken, and the ninth was blown out of the tree. The tenth pair, whose nest was not found, hatched and certainly reared one young bird, which was frequently seen.

"It is remarkable that none of the Kites which lost their eggs laid a second clutch; and, although they were frequently seen carrying nesting-materials, they never settled down. On the whole the past season has been a good one, but it might have been much better; and if next season proves successful, the British race of Kites will no longer be in danger of extinction, and the birds ought soon to spread back into some of their former haunts."

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited a clutch of three eggs of *Balearica regulorum gibbericeps*, Reichenow taken by Mr. W. M. Congreve at Njoro, British East Africa, on the 16th of September, 1912. Though not represented in the British Museum Collection or in that of Herr Nehrkorn, the eggs had been described by Dr. Reichenow [*cf.* Vög. Afr. i. p. 266 (1900)]. The eggs exhibited were bluish-white with a glossy surface, and measured $86 \times 53{\cdot}7$, $77{\cdot}7 \times 51$, and $84{\cdot}3 \times 55{\cdot}6$ mm. respectively. It was noteworthy that two out of the three eggs were infertile. Probably the brown markings described by Mr. E. L. Layard on eggs of *B. r. regulorum* from Bechuanaland and by Mr. L. M. Seth-Smith on eggs from Uganda were due solely to nest-stains.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker drew attention to the fact that white eggs could not be considered unique in the Crane family, as such eggs were often laid both by *Grus antigone*

and *G. sharpei*. As a general rule, the ground-colour of these eggs was of a faint greyish-white or yellowish-white, and the markings consisted of larger blotches of light reddish and smaller ones of lavender and pale neutral tint. These eggs were also more like eggs of the Balearic Cranes as regarded their texture than those of the typical Cranes, such as *Grus grus*, &c., being very hard, with a considerable amount of gloss.

Mr. H. F. Witherby exhibited a map of the world on a large scale, mounted on rollers, which had been presented to the Club by Capt. H. Lynes, R.N. He said that this map would prove of great value to the Members of the Club and supply a much-felt want at their meetings.

The Chairman proposed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Capt. Lynes. This was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith exhibited a nestling of *Larus hemprichi*, hatched in the Zoological Gardens in the summer of 1912, and pointed out that whereas the young of most Gulls had a spotted downy plumage, that of *L. hemprichi* was of a pale buffy-white without any distinct markings. Another young bird of this species had been hatched under a domestic hen and successfully reared.

An egg of Hemprich's Gull was also exhibited *.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain inquired if any record had been kept of the incubation-period of Hemprich's Gull, as statistics of this kind, though of great value to naturalists, were seldom recorded. The Zoological Gardens afforded exceptional opportunities for ascertaining the number of days occupied in the incubation of a large number of species concerning which little or nothing was known. The period of incubation no doubt varied considerably even in young hatched by their own parents; but when domestic hens

* [There is a large series of eggs of *L. hemprichi* in the Natural History Museum, taken by Col. E. A. Butler on Astolah Island off the Mekran coast [*cf.* Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 209 (1901)].—Ed.]

were utilized as foster-mothers, or the eggs were placed in an incubator, the variation in time was even greater. All records of this kind were, nevertheless, of great value if it was clearly stated under what conditions the young had been hatched.

After several other Members had taken part in the discussion, Mr. Seth-Smith in reply said that he was in the habit of keeping records of the incubation-periods at the Zoological Gardens as far as possible, but it was often by no means easy to ascertain even approximately the length of time occupied. It was generally extremely inadvisable to disturb birds nesting in the outdoor aviaries, and it was often impossible to tell how many days they had been sitting before they actually came under observation; in many instances, especially in the case of species breeding on the ground among long herbage, nothing was known of the nesting until the young were observed with their parents.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited a new Weaver-Finch from Madagascar, which he described as follows:—

Foudia omissa, sp. n.

Adult male. Entire head, throat, and chest crimson, eyelid and streak behind the eye black. Back and upper wing-coverts olive-green, striped with black; rump orange-scarlet; upper wing-coverts dull olive; quills and greater upper wing-coverts brownish-black, with olive-green edges; rectrices blackish-brown with dull olivaceous edges; abdomen olivaceous, greyish along the middle, and sometimes with reddish spots; under tail-coverts olivaceous, with whitish-olivaceous borders. Wing 77–79 mm.; tail 52·5–55·5.

Hab. Madagascar.

Type in the Tring Museum: ♂. Tamatave, 21. viii. 91.

Obs. We have three specimens of this hitherto unnamed bird from Tamatave and Ankoraka. It is closely allied to *Foudia eminentissima* from the Comoro Islands, but differs

in its smaller dimensions, especially in the smaller size of the bill and wings, and in having black behind the eye and the head of a deeper red. It should probably be regarded as a subspecies of *F. eminentissima,* which, in turn, might perhaps be looked upon as a subspecies of *Foudia rubra* (= *F. erythrocephala*), though the latter is very much smaller.

This is evidently the bird which Newton saw near Ankaranickra, in the same part of Madagascar, and which he distinguished from the common *Foudia madagascariensis* under the name of *F. erythrocephala.* The latter (*F. rubra* of modern authors) would hardly be distinguishable on the wing from the new form.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited a male example of the new subspecies of Pheasant (*Phasianus strauchi chonensis*) which he had described at the previous Meeting of the Club (see p. 16).

Dr. Ernst Hartert, on behalf of Mr. Erwin Stresemann, exhibited an example of a new species of *Abrornis* from the Malay Peninsula. Mr. Stresemann's description was as follows :—

Abrornis sakaiorum, sp. n.

Adult male. Differs from *A. s. vordermanni,* from Java, in lacking all trace of yellow on the underparts and of greenish on the upperparts.

Crown dark brownish-grey, back and upper tail-coverts very dark brown. Superciliary stripe, commencing at the base of the upper mandible, white ; lores black ; ear-coverts dark brownish ; chin and throat white ; jugulum cream-colour ; sides strongly washed with grey ; remaining underparts pale cream-colour, flanks inclining to whitish. Quills and upper wing-coverts blackish, with dull brown margins of the same colour as the back ; under wing-coverts and axillaries whitish ; rectrices dark brown, the two lateral pairs with the outer webs cream-colour. Iris brownish-black ;

bill black; feet pale brown. Exposed culmen 9 mm.; wing 52, middle pair of rectrices 43; tarsus 19.

Hab. Perak-Pahang Frontier, Malay Peninsula.

Type: ♂, No. 25. Upper Batang-Padang Valley, 3000 ft., 1.x.10. E. Stresemann coll.

Obs. That this bird cannot be the young of *A. s. schwaneri* or of *A. s. vordermanni* is shown by a young bird of the former from Borneo in the Tring Museum, collected by A. H. Everett. The nesting-plumage of *A. s. schwaneri* is of the same colour as that of the adult bird, except that the yellow colour on the breast and the underparts is less brilliant.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited eggs of the following species:—

Golden Eagle. (*Aquila chrysaëtus.*) Two rather small and handsomely-marked eggs from the Kola Peninsula.

Merlin. (*Falco æsalon.*) Two rather remarkable clutches of five eggs each from Yorkshire and Orkney.

Greenshank. (*Totanus nebularius.*) A clutch of *five* eggs from Inverness.

Brambling. (*Fringilla montifringilla.*) A series of clutches showing great variety, and among them three sets of eight eggs each.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited two clutches of eggs of the Golden-eye (*Clangula glaucion*) and two of Barrow's Golden-eye (*C. islandica*) with the down and flank-feathers. He called attention to the characteristic differences between the eggs and down of the two species, the eggs of the former being smaller and greener, while the down was much paler and the flank-feathers smaller. He pointed out that with regard to the colour of the down Mr. Dresser had stated that the paler down and smaller flank-feathers were characteristic of *C. islandica*, but his conclusion was based on an examination of one nest only of each species.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant desired to call attention to the fact (which he had overlooked) that in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' v. p. 189 (1880), Dr. J. A. Jeffries had already pointed out the difference in the shape of the scapular feathers between Barrow's Golden-eye and the Common Golden-eye. His remarks, however, only referred to the differences between adult birds, which were easily distinguished by many other characters. Dr. Jeffries was, moreover, of opinion that in the white and black scapular feathers of Barrow's Golden-eye "the terminal part of the white breaks off, and leaves the black edges projecting beyond." This was a mistake, as was proved by an examination of younger specimens assuming their first adult plumage, and exhibited at the last Meeting of the Club. In these the peculiarly-shaped scapulars, *still partly in sheath*, had the black edge produced much beyond the white portion, as in the adult (*cf. suprà*, pp. 18–20).

Mr. Brewster, 'Auk,' xxvi. pp. 153–164 (1909), had also discussed the differences between Barrow's Golden-eye and the Common Golden-eye at considerable length.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 8th of January, 1913, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.; the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members of the Club intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. Witherby, at 326 High Holborn, W.C.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor, also to supply him with a *written* account of anything intended for publication.]

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *Editor.* H. F. Witherby, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CLXXXIV.

The hundred and eighty-second Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, the 8th of January, 1913.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, D.Sc., F.R.S.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker, D. A. Bannerman, E. Bidwell, S. Boorman, C. D. Borrer, P. F. Bunyard, C. Chubb, Colonel S. R. Clarke, E. Gibson, F. H. C. Gould, Rev. J. R. Hale, E. Hartert, Ph.D., Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, Capt. H. Lynes, R.N., G. A. Macmillan, W. E. F. Macmillan, G. M. Mathews, H. Munt, T. H. Newman, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant (*Editor*), C. Oldham, C. E. Pearson, Major F. W. Proctor, W. P. Pycraft, F. R. Ratcliff, C. B. Rickett, Hon. W. Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S., A. D. Sapsworth, W. L. Sclater, F. C. Selous, D. Seth-Smith, E. F. Stanford, N. F. Ticehurst, F.R.C.S., S. L. Whymper, J. Wilkinson, H. F. Witherby (*Sec. & Treas.*).

Visitors:—G. F. Archer, G. K. Baynes, C. M. Dyer, T. Iredale.

Colonel Stephenson Clarke gave a short account of a shooting expedition which he and his brother, Captain Goland Clarke, had made to the Lorian, British East Africa. During their trip they had formed a considerable collection

of birds, and on their return to Mombasa had sent a native collector to work along the coast to Lamu, and had thus obtained skins of several rare species, as well as two which appeared to be new to science.

He exhibited specimens of the following :—

1. *Uræginthus cyanocephalus* Richmond, near Chanlers Falls, Guaso Nyiro. An immature specimen presented by Colonel Clarke was the only example in the Natural History Museum.
2. *Erythrocercus holochlorus* Erlanger, coast south of Lamu. A species not represented in the Museum.
3. *Stizorhina grandis* O.-Grant, Malindi. The type specimen in the Museum was the only example hitherto known.
4. *Macronyx aurantiigula* Reichenow, Malindi. Three examples of this rare and beautiful Long-claw had recently been presented to the Museum by Mr. A. B. Percival and Mr. Guy Blaine.

The new forms he proposed to describe as follows :—

Heterhyphantes golandi, sp. n.

Adult male. Resembles the adult female of *H. reichenowi* (Fischer), but the chin, throat, fore-neck, upper breast, and thighs are black ; the bastard-primary is narrow and slender, measuring 16 mm., while in *H. reichenowi* it is much wider and twice as long.

Hab. British East Africa.

Type in the British Museum : ♂. Mombasa. Presented by Col. S. R. Clarke.

Laniarius quadricolor nigricauda, subsp. n.

Laniarius quadricolor Bannerman (nec Cassin), Ibis, 1910, p. 689.

Adult male. Differs from the male of *L. quadricolor* Cassin in having the middle pair of tail-feathers black almost to the base, like the outer pairs, and the scarlet colour on the upper breast, below the black pectoral band, continued over the abdomen. Wing 79 mm.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but with all the tail-

feathers green and with very little scarlet on the upper breast only, the belly and under tail-coverts being yellowish-green. From the female of *L. quadricolor* it differs in having a black pectoral band. As the tail-feathers in this specimen are in moult and a partially grown feather on the left side is green like the rest, it seems probable that the sex has been correctly determined by the native collector, and that the specimen is not an immature male, as might at first be supposed.

Hab. Coastal Districts of British East Africa: Lamu, Takaungu, Malindi, Rovuma.

Type in the British Museum: [♂] No. 123. Takaungu, 15. iii. 01. Presented by A. B. Percival.

Obs. There are five male examples of this subspecies in the British Museum: we procured three males and a female.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman exhibited specimens of a new subspecies of Oyster-catcher found in the eastern islands of the Canary group, and made the following remarks :—

"The existence of a black Oyster-catcher in the Canary Islands is by no means a recent discovery. It is, however, decidedly a scarce bird and very poorly represented in museums. There are two adult females in the British Museum from Graciosa and Fuerteventura, presented by Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, and an adult male in the Liverpool Museum from Graciosa, procured by the late Canon Tristram, and kindly lent me for examination by Dr. Clubb. Up to the present time these specimens had been considered identical with *Hæmatopus niger*, the Black Oyster-catcher found in South Africa, but on comparing birds from the two localities it at once became apparent that important differences existed. I therefore propose to name this bird

Hæmatopus niger meade-waldoi, subsp. n.

Hæmatopus capensis Meade-Waldo (nec Licht.), Ibis, 1889, pp. 13, 508; 1890, p. 437; 1893, p. 204.

Adult. Similar to *H. niger* Temm., but decidedly smaller,

particularly as regards the measurement of the wing, but with the culmen conspicuously longer and the tarsus more slender. The basal portion of the inner webs of the primaries is white, forming a large patch, partially concealed by the under wing-coverts. In *H. niger* there is scarcely any white at the base of the quills, though the primaries become lighter towards the base.

Hæmatopus niger.	*H. n. meade-waldoi.*
Wing ♂ ..... 285 mm.	Wing ♂ ..... 259 mm.
,, ♀ ..... 275 mm.	,, ♀ ..... 250, 257 mm.
Culmen ..... 69–71 mm.	Culmen ..... 77–81 mm.*

Hab. Eastern Canary Islands: Fuerteventura, Lanzarote, and Graciosa.

Type in the British Museum: ♀. Jandia, Fuerteventura, 7. iv. 88. Presented by E. G. B. Meade-Waldo.

Obs. Mr. Meade-Waldo has recorded the specimens obtained by Tristram and himself in his papers published in the 'Ibis' and quoted above. Those from Graciosa were a breeding pair: the female from Fuerteventura was also a breeding bird and contained well-developed eggs.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited a series of eggs of Asiatic parasitic Cuckoos, from an examination of which he maintained that certain definite conclusions could be drawn, the principal amongst these being :—

(1) That parasitic Cuckoos, as a group, nearly always laid very small eggs in proportion to the size of the parent, and it was therefore probable that a small egg was gradually being evolved by the elimination of those which were most strikingly disproportionate in size when compared with eggs of the foster-parent.

The adoption and incubation of the large eggs of *Cuculus canorus bakeri* by small birds of the genera *Cisticola*, *Suya*, *Orthotomus*, &c., showed, however, that evolution in this direction must be exceedingly slow.

* The male has the culmen somewhat shorter than the female, as in other species of Oyster-catcher.

(2) That a process of adaptation in colour was most undoubtedly being undergone.

(3) That evolution in shape was not indicated.

Amongst the series exhibited, Mr. Stuart Baker showed that in some cases, as in the eggs of *Coccystes* and of *Hierococcyx varius*, adaptation in colour had reached great perfection and that it was only in abnormal cases that the Cuckoo's egg did not agree with that of the foster-parent. With other eggs it was manifest that evolution was still in progress, the most noticeable case in this respect being the marvellous adaptation obtaining in the eggs of Cuckoos of the genus *Cacomantis*. Whilst asserting that it could hardly be doubted that evolution in adaptation was in progress, Mr. Stuart Baker repeatedly emphasized the fact that this evolution was brought about not by creation, but by elimination. It seemed to him that amongst the foster-parents selected by the Cuckoo to hatch its eggs birds were occasionally met with sufficiently clever to discover the difference between their own eggs and that of the Cuckoo. The more startling the difference the easier it would be for the foster-parent to exercise this power of discrimination, and so by very slow degrees those individual Cuckoos whose eggs were unlike the eggs of any foster-parent would gradually die out, whilst those laying eggs more like the eggs of the host would persist.

Evolution was brought about by the foster-parent and not by the Cuckoo.

Another important point alluded to was that if evolution was admitted, it was possible to estimate the comparative age of the various genera amongst parasitic Cuckoos. Thus *Cuculus canorus* and its subspecies were probably of modern origin, only commencing to evolve eggs of any particular colour and as yet quite indifferent as to what species of host they might select. *Coccystes*, on the contrary, would appear to be a very ancient form of Cuckoo, in which evolution in the colour of the eggs had been perfected and the number of foster-parents reduced to species of one or two genera, all laying similarly coloured eggs.

Mr. Stuart Baker also described a new subspecies of Warbler, which he proposed to call

Acanthopneuste trochiloides harterti, subsp. n.

This subspecies differs from *A. t. trochiloides* in its somewhat smaller size, the wings of the males varying from 53 to 56 mm. and those of the females from 50 to 55 mm. as against 57 and 63 mm. in *A. t. trochiloides* (Hartert, Vög. pal. Faun. i. p. 522). In general coloration this new subspecies is somewhat darker and brighter, the yellow bars on the wing are more developed and of a deeper tint, and the white on the outer webs of the two outermost pairs of rectrices of much greater extent. In *A. t. trochiloides* the white is generally confined to a very narrow edging and tip, and is often not to be seen at all on the penultimate pair; in *A. t. harterti* the white often covers nearly the whole of the outer webs of the outermost pair and sometimes the greater part of the penultimate pair. The wing-formula is the same as in *A. t. trochiloides,* the second primary being intermediate in length between the eighth and tenth, generally equal to the tenth.

Hab. Assam Hills, 4000–6000 feet.

Types in the Tring Museum : ♂ ♀ . Peak near Shillong, Khasia Hills, 13. vi. 08. E. C. Stuart Baker coll.

Obs. This is a small local form of *A. t. trochiloides* which I discovered breeding in the Khasia Hills at an elevation between 4000 and 6000 feet. Surprised at finding a bird of normally high elevations, of 9000 feet upwards, breeding so low down, I trapped a number on their nests and was at once struck by their small size and dark coloration.

On my arrival in England last year I compared my birds with a series of *A. t. trochiloides* in the Tring Museum and then found the above differences to exist, and my conclusions have been confirmed this year by comparison with additional material.

This bird is a very common breeding species in the Khasia Hills and makes a beautiful egg-shaped nest of brilliant

green moss, placed either on a high sloping bank or wall, or against the trunk of some moss-covered dead tree.

The eggs, three to five in number, are pure white, smooth and fragile, and usually without much gloss. They are of a rather long pointed oval shape, and the average measurements of 25 eggs are 16·5 × 12·5 mm.

Two birds obtained by me in Dibrugarh in October–November, 1901, would appear to be of this subspecies, as they are both males with a wing-measurement of less than 57 mm. It may be, therefore, that the non-migratory form extends all through the mountain-ranges south of the Brahmapootra, from the Khasia Hills to the Trans-Dikku Naga Hills in the extreme east of Assam. Birds were taken on their nests on the 13th of June, 1908.

I name this species after Dr. Ernst Hartert, who has done so much to elucidate the difficulties of this most puzzling group of Warblers.

Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited an example of the Barn-Owl from the Cape Verde Islands, obtained by the late Boyd Alexander; he also showed examples of some of the allied forms, and made the following remarks:—

"In the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' 1872, p. 23, Pelzeln described an Owl from the island of St. Vincent as '*Strix insularis*.' The specimen was purchased from a dealer in London and was said to have come from St. Vincent 'in America.' A perusal of Pelzeln's description shows that it refers to the Owl found in St. Vincent, West Indies. Unfortunately, however, the author believed that the bird came from St. Vincent, one of the Cape Verde group, and Sharpe, Salvadori, and other ornithologists have since used the name *Strix insularis* for the Barn-Owl met with in those islands. It is evident that they could not have read Pelzeln's description. The fact that he says it is the smallest of all Barn-Owls, even smaller than *S. punctatissima* from the Galapagos Islands, is sufficient to show that he referred to the West Indian bird. Until 1911 the small Owl from

St. Vincent, West Indies, was believed to be the same as the bird from Dominica—i. e., *T. a. nigrescens* Lawrence; but recently it has been separated as a new subspecies under the name of *Hybris nigrescens noctividus* [Barbour, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxiv. p. 57 (1911)] (Grenada).

It is quite clear that the Owl from St. Vincent, West Indies, must be called *T. a. insularis* Pelzeln, while that from the Cape Verde Islands remains unnamed.

I propose to call it

Tyto alba detorta, subsp. n.

This Owl differs widely from the West-Indian *T. a. insularis* Pelzeln in its larger size and in the different markings on the underparts of the body, but it is so closely allied to the dark continental form of the European Barn-Owl, that one can only separate it from the latter by the larger black and white spots on the upperside and by the more thinly feathered metatarsus. From the smaller *T. a. gracilirostris* of the eastern Canary Islands it differs in its generally larger dimensions, and from *T. a. maculata* of tropical Africa it is distinguished by the constantly dark orange-brown colour of the underside and by the smaller spots. Wing 287–300 mm. (Five specimens examined.)

On behalf of Mr. R. M. Barrington, Mr. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited a remarkable variety of the Common Teal (*Querquedula crecca*) which had been killed at Thurles, Co. Tipperary, on the 15th of October, 1912.

The bird was a male with the head and neck in almost normally coloured immature plumage, but with the remainder of the body and wings mostly white. The upperparts showed the finely vermiculated markings of the adult; the chest was spotted with black; the secondaries were black on the greater part of the outer web, with the basal part metallic green, but this colour did not extend to the tips of the quills on the innermost feathers as in normally marked specimens; the primary-quills and tail-feathers were more or less blackish towards the tip; the upper tail-coverts

showed a certain amount of dark pigment and cinnamon-buff, while the under tail-coverts were mostly of the latter colour.

Varieties of this kind amongst Teal were extremely rare: Mr. Walter Rothschild possessed a curious cream-coloured specimen.

Messrs. Williams & Son, Naturalists, Dublin, had kindly forwarded the specimen exhibited, which had now become the property of Mr. J. B. Nichols.

Mr. C. Chubb exhibited, on behalf of Mr. F. V. McConnell, examples of *Berlepschia rikeri*, *Chlorophonia roraimæ*, and *Oceanodroma leucorrhoa*, which had been collected on the east bank of the Essequibo River, near the mouth.

He said that Mr. McConnell had very kindly presented one of his two examples of *Berlepschia rikeri* to the Natural History Museum, where the species had not hitherto been represented.

Mr. Chubb also remarked that Dr. C. W. Richmond had drawn his attention to the following descriptions :—

Myiospiza humeralis (Bosc), Journ. d'Hist. Nat. ii. p. 179, pl. xxxiv. fig. 4 (1792: Cayenne), which had priority over *M. manimbe* (Licht.), 1823.

Topaza smaragdulus (Bosc), op. cit. i. p. 385, pl. xx. fig. 5 (1792), which was the female of *Topaza pella* (Linn.), 1758.

Mr. Witherby exhibited the following varieties of Game-Birds which he had recently received :—

1. Blackcock (*Lyrurus tetrix*).—A male killed at Bogra Dunscore, Dumfriesshire, on the 10th of December, 1912, by Mr. R. Martin, whose brother had kindly brought it to Mr. Witherby for examination. This was apparently a bird of the year, and was very much like the Blackcock he had exhibited at the Meeting held on the 12th of April, 1911 (Bull. B. O. C. xxvii. p. 79). It had most of the feathers of the head, neck, upper mantle, throat, and upper breast barred

with reddish-brown; most of the scapulars, wing-coverts, tail-feathers, and upper tail-coverts vermiculated with brown, and three scapulars tipped with white; many feathers on the breast tipped, barred, streaked, or vermiculated with white or grey, and several similar feathers on the belly. The tail was normally shaped, but one side was slightly more curved than the other. The bird was moulting on the head, breast, upper mantle, and other parts, and the feathers actually growing were normally coloured. Exactly the same thing had been noted in the other specimen, and Mr. Witherby concluded that at the time they were killed, and while the moult was still in progress, the birds had recovered from the loss or disturbance of pigment which had apparently caused the abnormal coloration. The testes of the bird appeared to Mr. Witherby to be quite normal.

2. Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).—A female caught by a keeper at Springkell, Dumfriesshire, in December 1912, and kindly sent to Mr. Witherby by Mr. A. Johnson-Ferguson.

This was a very remarkable specimen showing a combination of melanism, erythrism, and albinism. The whole of the upperside and wing-coverts were so suffused with black and deep brown that the usual greyish-buff edgings and markings had almost disappeared, and were only represented by narrow wavy lines near the tips and notch-shaped markings on the edges of the feathers. The back of the neck and upper mantle were dark chestnut marked with black, and many of the feathers had small metallic-green tips. The chin, throat, lores (on one side only), and sides of the neck had many white or white-tipped feathers, and there were a number of white feathers on the points of the wings (carpal joints), and a trace of white on some of the feathers of the belly. The whole of the rest of the underparts were rich chestnut, with large black spots and bars, and a narrow penultimate dark buff band on most of the feathers. The tail was of a dark brown like the back,

with broad black markings and narrow reddish-buff wavy bands.

The ovary was normal, but the bird was in an emaciated condition and had some yellow watery sores under the skin.

3. Red Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*).—An adult female, killed at Kirkconnell, Kirkcudbrightshire, on the 12th of December, 1912, and kindly sent to Mr. Witherby by Mr. H. S. Gladstone.

This bird had most of the feathers of the throat and breast, as well as a large number on the right flank and a much smaller number on the left flank, barred with yellow and black like the summer-plumage, while a number of other feathers were partially barred and blotched with yellow. One or two of the under tail-coverts and some of the feathers on the legs were also similarly barred. The upperparts, lower breast, and belly were in normal winter-plumage. The bird was moulting, and all the feathers with sheaths were barred with yellow and black.

The ovary was normal, and the oviduct being much distended near the distal end indicated that eggs had been laid, and that the bird was, therefore, an adult. The body was in good condition, and there did not appear to be any intestinal worms.

Mr. Witherby concluded that this bird, for some reason, had moulted late, and that during the course of the moult the pigment had changed to that producing the summer-plumage. This explanation, he thought, would account for the facts that none of the normally coloured winter-feathers had sheaths though they were not abraided, that some of the feathers were partially of winter- and partially of summer-plumage pattern, and that many of the entirely summer-plumage feathers had sheaths and were therefore of the most recent growth.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant said that it seemed to him probable that this specimen had suffered from disease, and though it

had subsequently entirely recovered, its moults had been upset and the assumption of summer-plumage retarded for several months. The shape and large size of the black-and-buff barred flank-feathers clearly showed that they belonged to the nesting-plumage, the autumn-feathers being always much smaller.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 12th of February, 1913, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.; the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members of the Club intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. Witherby, at 326 High Holborn, W.C.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor, also to supply him with a *written* account of anything intended for publication.]

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *Editor.* H. F. Witherby, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CLXXXV.

The hundred and eighty-third Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, the 12th of February, 1913.

Chairman: Hon. W. Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker, D. A. Bannerman, E. Bidwell, C. D. Borrer, P. F. Bunyard, E. V. Earle, F. W. Frohawk, E. Gibson, C. H. B. Grant, Gerald Gurney, J. H. Gurney, E. Hartert, Ph.D., C. Ingram, Staff-Surgeon Kenneth H. Jones, R.N., G. E. Lodge, W. E. F. Macmillan, G. M. Mathews, E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, H. Munt, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant (*Editor*), C. Oldham, T. Parkin, Sir Thomas Digby Pigott, C.B., W. J. Percy Player, A. E. Price, Major F. W. Proctor, W. P. Pycraft, F. R. Ratcliff, R. H. Read, C. B. Rickett, W. L. Sclater, M. C. C. Seton, E. Fraser Stanford, J. H. Stenhouse, M.B., R.N., C. B. Ticehurst, M.R.C.S., S. L. Whymper, H. F. Witherby (*Sec. & Treas.*).

Visitors:—T. P. Aldworth, H. D. Astley, G. K. Baynes, J. Borrer, H. Macdonald, C. Keith Murray, W. J. Player, H. Stevens, E. Stresemann, Hugh Whistler.

Before commencing the business of the evening the Chairman said it was his sad duty to call attention to the deaths of three well-known Members of the Club.

The first of these was Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, the mention of whose name by an unfortunate oversight had been omitted at the last Meeting of the Club. He had been one of the oldest Members, and had for many years attended the meetings and added to their interest by exhibiting specimens and contributing notes.

Mr. Henry J. Pearson, whose death had taken place in Egypt on the 9th of February, after a short illness, was also one of the oldest Members of the Club, and from 1903–05 had served on the Committee and acted as a Vice-Chairman. Until the last few years he had been one of the most regular attendants at the meetings and had contributed many interesting exhibits. His presence would be greatly missed by his many friends.

Dr. Edward A. Wilson had perished in the terrible Antarctic disaster which had overwhelmed Captain Scott and his heroic companions on their return journey from the South Pole, and had caused such widespread sorrow in all parts of the land. His premature death was a sad loss to this country and to science generally, for as an accurate field-observer and naturalist he had few equals. His discovery of the nesting-place and breeding-habits of the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) would always be associated with his name. His great personal charm and modesty had endeared him to all who knew him, while his unusual abilities as a scientist rendered his loss doubly sad.

The Chairman also referred with sorrow to the death of Professor Robert Collett, of the University Museum, Christiania, who had been elected an Honorary Member of the B. O. U. in 1900. He was well known to ornithologists in this country and immensely esteemed, both on account of his personal qualities and his scientific attainments. His knowledge of Norwegian ornithology was unrivalled, and he had also done much to elucidate the zoology of Northern Australia.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S., exhibited a male and four female examples of the English Pheasant (mongrel race) in melanistic plumage, to further illustrate the points raised by Mr. Witherby at the last Meeting. He pointed out that the dark females were the exact counterpart of "Sabine's Snipe" and "Von Huegel's Snipe" in *Gallinago gallinago* and "*Gallinago aucklandica*" respectively, and of the so-named "*Synoicus lodoisiæ*" in the Common Quail, *Coturnix coturnix*. They had the same broad black bars and darkened ground-colour on the breast, and the grey of the remaining parts was much reduced, while the red and black colours were greatly increased and intensified. The dark plumage in the male Pheasant, produced by the intensifying of the pigment, was very unusual. Instead of the metallic green and blue of the head and neck ending abruptly, and the breast and flank-feathers being coppery-orange edged with black, the metallic colouring merged completely into the purple of the lower neck and upper breast. The lower breast, flanks, and abdomen were sooty-black, each feather broadly edged with metallic-purple and with a buff shaft-stripe. The wings and greater coverts were brownish-olive, the lesser coverts margined with metallic steel-purple, the lower back and rump with olive instead of rufous edges to the feathers, and each with a broad bluish-purple instead of a green cross-bar. The upper tail-coverts olive instead of rufous, and washed with ochre-yellow on the sides; the tail-feathers with metallic-purple instead of rufous edges.

The male and three of the female Pheasants had been purchased in the winter of 1889 in the Cambridge Market, and were said to have come from Elveden Hall; the other female was obtained some years later in Leadenhall Market.

Mr. Rothschild exhibited pure-bred examples of *Phasianus colchicus colchicus* and *P. c. versicolor*, as well as crosses between them and between *P. c. torquatus*, to prove that the peculiar, almost Crow-like purple-black plumage was melanistic and not the result of cross-breeding.

He also exhibited the parallel cases of melanism in the two species of Snipe mentioned above; likewise in the Woodcock and Common Quail, with their respective normal forms.

Mr. Rothschild also exhibited the following albino or partially white specimens, and remarked that he had only brought such as had not already been exhibited by him at the Meeting held on the 25th of April, 1900:—

Corvus cornix. A nearly complete albino specimen; dull white, with the head cinnamon-brown, and the wings and tail pale cinnamon. Holland.

Acridotheres tristis. An albino specimen, the white slightly stained with pale cinnamon: Seychelles Islands, 24.iv.06 (*P. N. K. Naidoo*). A male and female with pearl-grey or silvery-grey plumage, shipped from Singapore, and received alive in March 1905.

Scolecophagus carolinus. A specimen with the head and throat pure white, and the rest of the plumage thickly interspersed with white feathers. N. America.

Erythrura psittacea. A male with the red of the forehead, face, neck, and upper tail-coverts replaced by golden-yellow. Died at Tring.

Erythrura prasina. A male with the red of the abdomen and under tail-coverts replaced by golden-yellow.

Pachycephala orpheus. A male with the upperside white, with a few grey feathers; the rump and tail golden-yellow, the wings pale primrose-yellow; the underside and throat white, the breast and abdomen cinnamon-buff, and the under tail-coverts golden-yellow. "Iris chocolate-red, bill black, feet dark plumbeous" Wetter Island, 23.x.02 (*H. Kühn*).

Muscitræa macrocephala. A male with the upperside dull whitish-buff, with a narrow black collar, the primary-quills, several of the rectrices, and a few spots also sooty-black; the underside whitish-buff, the breast with a large irregular black patch, and the abdomen orange-buff. Canterbury, New Zealand, 1873.

Anthornis melanura. A specimen with cinnamon plumage, washed more strongly with yellow on the underside; the tail and wings whitish-buff: Nelson, New Zealand, 1822. A female with white plumage washed with lemon-yellow, strongest on the abdomen: Canterbury, New Zealand, 1873.

Muscicapa striata. A male in white plumage. Received September 1906; died May 1907. Great Britain.

Rhipidura rufofrontata. A female with the upperside mostly white, the forehead rufous with a few white feathers, the nape brown, a few brown feathers on the head, the secondaries and four of the primary-quills white; the upper tail-coverts rufous, and the tail broadly tipped with white. Iris, bill, and feet normally coloured. Rendova, Solomon Islands, 6. ii. 04 (*A. S. Meek*).

Sylvia subalpina. A male with the general colour very pale; the occiput and collar white, several of the rectrices white; the throat and upper breast pure white. Pisa, (*E. H. Giglioli*).

Acrocephalus schœnobænus. A male in white plumage with a slight sulphur tinge. Tring Reservoirs, 12. ix. 05.

Acrocephalus stentoreus. A male with the upperparts largely mixed with white; the tail white; the wings cinnamon-brown; the underparts white, tinged with yellow, and with a few scattered pale brown feathers. Wadi Natroon, Egypt.

Campephilus melanoleucus. A specimen with the head crimson and the crown greyish-cinnamon; the neck, back,

and wings cinnamon-grey; the tail cinnamon-brown; and the underparts buff, barred with cinnamon-grey. Novita, Columbia (*W. Hyde coll.*).

Aulacorhamphus albivitta. A male example with pure golden-yellow plumage, only the throat being white. "Eyes blue." La Cutata, Venezuela, 3000 metres, 14.x.04 (*S. Briceño*).

Halcyon vagans. A specimen with pure white plumage. Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, 1893.

Amazona æstiva. A female with pale mealy yellowish-green plumage: received August 1905; died April 1906. A male with the crown pale yellow, the hind-neck and back strongly mixed with deep yellow and crimson feathers, the throat, cheeks, and upper breast deep yellow mixed with crimson feathers: received October 1902; died 1907. A female with the upperside largely mixed with yellow feathers, and the underside less so.

Palæornis torquatus. A male with pure golden-yellow plumage, and the ring round the neck, as well as the eyes, pink. Received alive from India.

Platycercus elegans. A male with the crimson in the plumage replaced by cherry-red, the blue of the throat, wings, and tail-feathers replaced by creamy-white, and the black of the back by sulphur-yellow. Purchased alive with another exactly similar specimen.

Speotyto cunicularia grallaria. A female in pure white plumage; "iris bright yellow, bill and feet lemon-yellow." La Soledad, Argentina, 12.xii.01 (*B. Britton*).

Ninox novæ-zealandiæ. A specimen with the upperparts white, a few scattered brown feathers on the back, and a few of the rectrices and primary-quills brown; underparts white, irregularly washed with yellowish-buff and with a few scattered normally coloured feathers. Wellington, New Zealand (*H. Travers*).

Circus gouldi. A female with the upperparts white, a few scattered brown feathers on the head, back, and wings; the tail pale; the underside white, with a few rufous feathers. "Iris pale yellow." Canterbury, New Zealand.

Accipiter gentilis. An adult female specimen with the upperparts milk-white and the head strongly clouded and streaked with brownish-grey, the rest of the plumage slightly streaked and washed with dirty grey; the wings and tail with indistinct brownish-grey bars; the underside white, with pale silvery-grey shaft-stripes and cross-bars. West Siberia, December 1902 (*Lorenz*) (see p. 51).

Three males and one immature female with the plumage milk-white, but much more strongly marked with brownish-grey than in the adult.

♂ ♀. West Siberia, December 1897 and 1902 (*Lorenz*); ♂. Turkestan, 1901; ♂. Archangel, N. Russia (*Henke coll.*).

Dendrocygna arcuata. A specimen showing partial melanism. Received 10. iii. 04; died 28. iv. 04.

Anas chlorotis. A female with the head, neck, and back largely mixed with white. Wanamatu, North Island, New Zealand, January 1894.

Anas penelope. A male with pale cinnamon-buff plumage, and a few grey streaks on the scapulars; the abdomen white.

Anas crecca. A male with the sides of the head metallic-blue instead of green, and the area below the metallic patch dirty white; the throat sooty black, mixed with red and white feathers; the grey vermiculations abnormally dark; and the breast with broad black bars. A wild bird shot on the Tring Reservoirs.

Anas discors. A pure white specimen. British Columbia.

Dafila acuta. A female with cinnamon-white plumage and markings of a somewhat darker shade. A wild bird shot in Holland, September 1897.

Spatula clypeata. A female with the upperparts white mottled with dark brown on the back and wing-coverts; the underparts white, much mixed with cinnamon, and with some brown spots. Lake Manitoba, October 1897 (*H. J. Munn*).

Scolopax rusticola. A male in white plumage, with a few dark patches on the head, back, and wing-coverts; portions of the primary-quills washed with brownish-grey. Durago, Albania, February 1907 (*R. B. Lodge*).

Machetes pugnax. A female in white plumage, with dark grey patches on the back and wings, and with a few spots on the neck. Received alive from Holland, January 1903; died November 1903.

Aptenodytes patagonica. A male with the upperside normally coloured; the double nuchal band, as well as the chin, throat, and median line on the chest olive-green; breast and rest of the underside deep seal-brown. Macquarie Islands.

Megadyptes antipodum. A pure white specimen. Macquarie Islands, 1901.

Prion ariel. A specimen with the upperparts almost white. Cook's Straits, New Zealand, July 1902.

Larus ridibundus. Two pure white examples; eyes normally coloured. One from the Lake of Geneva, 3. ix. 01; and the other killed near Paris.

Rallus aquaticus. Entirely deep black, a few whitish freckles indicated on the lower flanks and lower abdomen. Grand Canal, Dublin, 13. xi. 03.

Francolinus francolinus. A male in almost completely black plumage. Received alive in April 1900.

Coturnix coturnix. A specimen with the upperparts dark silver-grey and the underparts buffy white. Pavoação, St. Miguel, Azores.

Mr. Rothschild drew special attention to the Toucan, the Pennant's Parrakeet, the Ring-necked Parrakeet, and the five Goshawks, *Accipiter gentilis* (see p. 49).

The latter were of very great interest, as a similar bird had been described by Pallas as *Accipiter astur*, var. *albus*. Count Berlepsch, some years ago, had found in the warehouse of a Berlin plumassier a box containing dozens of these white Goshawks. It would seem, therefore, that there must be a locality in the high north where this form was plentiful, and it would probably prove to be a distinct local race.

He exhibited normally coloured specimens of the Toucan, Pennant's Parrakeet, and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker for comparison with the varieties shown.

He also exhibited:—

Anas platyrhyncha (boscas). A female assuming male plumage. Tring, March 1906.

Aix sponsa. A female assuming male plumage.

Mr. Rothschild further exhibited the following hybrids:—

Psittacidæ.

Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ × T. chlorolepidotus. Wild shot (*Schrader coll.*).

Ara chloroptera × A. militaris. Two female examples. Bred in the Milan Public Gardens.

Platycercus eximius × P. elegans. Two males and a female.

Platycercus eximius × Barnardius semitorquatus. A male and female.

Platycercus eximius × P. flaveolus. A female.

Platycercus eximius × Psephotus hæmatonotus. A male and female.

Psephotus chrysotis × P. multicolor. A male.

Polytelis barrabandi × P. melanura. A male and female, bred in Essex.

Polytelis barrabani × P. alexandræ. A male, bred on the Continent.

Anatidæ.

Chenopis atrata × Domestic Goose. Bred in New Zealand.

Chenalopex ægyptiaca × Chloephaga magellanica. A male and female.

Chenalopex ægyptiaca × Cairina moschata. A male.

Chenalopex ægyptiaca × Casarca ferruginea. A female.

Casarca ferruginea × C. tadornoides. A male.

Casarca ferruginea × Tadorna tadorna. A female.

Anas platyrhyncha (boscas) × A. obscura. A male.

Anas platyrhyncha × A. penelope. Two males and two females, bred in England.

Anas platyrhyncha × Dafila acuta. Three males, one shot wild in Holland.

Anas platyrhyncha × Dafila spinicauda. Four males and two females.

Anas platyrhyncha × Somateria mollissima. A male, shot at the Isle of Auskerry, Orkney, 1912, by Mr. Laidlaw (*cf.* 'Scottish Naturalist,' September 1912). Sent for exhibition by Mr. W. Eagle Clarke.

Anas penelope × A. sibilatrix. Two males bred in Lancashire; two males bred by Sir Edward Grey; and a female.

Anas penelope × A. crecca. A male, shot wild in Holland.

Anas penelope × Nyroca fuligula. A female, bred in Holland.

Dafila acuta × Anas strepera. Two males and a female.

Dafila acuta × Anas penelope. Two males and a female shot wild in Holland; a male bred by Sir Edward Grey.

Dafila acuta × Anas crecca. A male, shot wild in Holland.

Dafila spinicauda × Anas strepera. A female.

Dafila spinicauda × Pœcilonetta bahamensis. A male.

Aix sponsa × Tadorna tadorna. Two males.

Aix sponsa × Anas platyrhyncha. Two males.

Aix sponsa × Anas penelope. A male and female.

Aix sponsa × Dafila acuta. A male.

Aix sponsa × Nyroca ferina. Three males and a female.

Aix sponsa × Nyroca nyroca. A male.

Aix sponsa × Nyroca fuligula. A male and female.

Aix sponsa × Nyroca clangula. A male.

Nyroca peposaca × Sarcidiornis melanonotus. A male and female.

Nyroca peposaca × Aix sponsa. Two males and two females.

Nyroca peposaca × Anas platyrhyncha. Two males.

Nyroca peposaca × Domestic Duck (Call Duck). A male and female.

Nyroca peposaca × N. rufina. A male and two females.

Nyroca peposaca × N. ferina. A male and female.

Nyroca peposaca × N. fuligula. A male.

Nyroca rufina × N. ferina. Three males and two females.

Gallinæ.

Numida meleagris × Domestic Fowl. A male.

Numida meleagris × Pavo cristatus. A female.

Acryllium vulturinum × Domestic Fowl. A male.

Mr. Rothschild drew special attention to the Macaw hybrids and the cross between the Guinea-fowl and Peafowl. He also said that it was evident that the Carolina and Rosy-billed Ducks crossed more freely and were more prolific than other species, since they had accounted respectively for eight and seven of the hybrids exhibited.

The parent species of the Macaw hybrids were also exhibited for comparison.

Mr. Rothschild said that they were all much indebted to Mr. Eagle Clarke for sending for exhibition the cross between the Mallard and Eider Duck. It was certainly one of the most remarkable wild hybrids that had ever been procured.

Mr. J. H. Gurney exhibited a copy of Major's 'Chronicle' (1521) in black letter, which contained an early account of the Gannet settlement on the Bass Rock. Major was born at Gleghornie, a few miles from the Bass, in 1469, and had probably visited it as a young man on more than one occasion.

Mr. Witherby exhibited a series of Scandinavian and British Greyhens, and explained that in conjunction with Prof. Einar Lönnberg he had described the British form as distinct, under the name *Lyrurus tetrix britannicus*, in a recent issue of 'British Birds' (vol. vi. pp. 270–1). No difference could be found in the males, but the females

differed in several points, the Scandinavian birds having more white on the breast and wing-coverts, more black on the belly, more grey on the rump, less rufous and wider black bars on the under tail-coverts than British Greyhens. Mr. Witherby remarked that as continental stock had been introduced in many places in Great Britain, care should be taken to discover the origin of specimens examined. He was much indebted to Lord William Percy, Mr. H. S. Gladstone, and the late Professor Collett for having supplied him with a number of specimens. While varieties were numerous in collections, normal specimens were, in Mr. Witherby's experience, very scarce and he had had some difficulty in consulting a sufficiently large series for his purpose.

Mr. Hubert D. Astley exhibited two living examples of *Psephotus dissimilis* in immature plumage, which he had succeeded in breeding in captivity for the first time. A brood of five were hatched in October 1912, four being reared to maturity.

He said that this species was a native of North Australia and little was known of its nidification in a wild state. There was a doubt as to whether the late Professor Collett had described the species correctly; for he wrote that his type specimen of *Psephotus dissimilis* differed from *P. chrysopterygius* (Golden-shouldered Parrakeet) in having a dark chestnut hood and no yellow frontal band.

Later Mr. A. J. North described a bird with a black hood and named it *P. cucullatus*.

It had since been claimed by Mr. Mathews that *P. dissimilis* and *P. cucullatus* were synonymous and that Collett had erred in describing the crown as chestnut, when in reality it was black.

Mr. G. M. Mathews, who exhibited the type specimen of *Psephotus dissimilis* Collett, said that he wished to correct a mistake in the original description of that species (*cf.* Proc. Zool. Soc. 1898, p. 356). There it had been stated that the

"forehead, lores, and crown" were "dark chestnut," but these parts in reality were black.

This bird was first collected in Australia (probably in Arnhem Land, so far its only known habitat) by Robert Brown about the year 1803, when he accompanied Captain Flinders. A beautiful figure was made from the specimen by Bauer, but no skin was preserved. This painting is now in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington.

About the year 1909 numbers of these birds were brought to Europe *viâ* Sydney. While in Sydney they were examined by Mr. A. J. North, who, believing them to be new, described a specimen in the 'Victoria Naturalist,' vol. xxv. p. 176 (1909), under the name *Psephotus cucullatus*.

After the birds arrived in Europe Mr. Blaauw purchased some, and Dr. Van Oort, who also considered them to be undescribed and knew nothing of Mr. North's action, named a specimen *P. chrysopterygius blaauwi* [*cf.* Notes Leyden Mus. vol. xxxii. p. 71 (1912)].

It was obvious that the birds described by Mr. North and Dr. Van Oort were of the same species; the latter had sent his type specimen for examination to Mr. Mathews, who had compared it with the type of *P. dissimilis* and found them to be identical.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman described a new species of Thrush collected by Mr. C. F. M. Swynnerton in Rhodesia. He proposed to name it

Turdus swynnertoni, sp. n.

Turdus cabanisi Swynnerton (nec Bonap.), Ibis, 1907, p. 60.

Turdus milanjensis Swynnerton (nec Shelley), Ibis, 1908, p. 81.

Adult male and female. General colour above olive-brown, becoming lighter on the lores and cheeks; wing-coverts like the back; primaries dark brown, as also the tail. Chin and throat white, tinged with buff, boldly streaked with black.

Chest and upper breast dull olive-brown tinged with buff; lower breast and abdomen orange-buff, becoming whitish on the lower abdomen; sides strongly washed with olive-brown, becoming darker on the flanks; under wing-coverts and axillaries bright orange-buff, brighter than the breast. Iris brown; upper mandible brown, lower mandible orange; feet deep raw-sienna, back of the tarsus gamboge. Total length in the flesh 214 mm.; culmen 20; wing 110; tarsus 28.

Hab. Rhodesia. Chirinda Forest.

Type in the British Museum: ♀. Chirinda Forest, 17.vi.06. C. F. M. Swynnerton coll.

Obs. There is a series of eleven skins of this Thrush in the British Museum, all procured in the Chirinda Forest by Mr. Swynnerton, in whose honour the species has been named.

Major H. H. Harington forwarded the description of a new subspecies of Swift from the Northern Shan States, which he proposed to call

Cypselus pacificus cooki, subsp. n.

Adult male. Similar to *C. pacificus* Lath., but smaller, with the white band across the rump narrower, about 10 mm. wide (instead of 15 mm.); only the feathers on the middle of the throat white, with well-marked black shaft-stripes, those on the sides of the throat black fringed with white, producing a barred appearance; the mantle deep glossy black. Wing 170 mm.; middle tail-feathers 51, lateral tail-feathers 75.

Hab. Northern Shan States.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. Goteik Caves, 2.vi.12. Presented by J. Pemberton Cook, Esq.

Obs. This Swift, which is evidently a resident form of *C. pacificus*, was found breeding in the Goteik Caves, Northern Shan States, 2nd June, 1912.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant made the following remarks on a small collection of birds from Henderson Island, South Pacific, collected and presented to the British Museum by Messrs. D. R. Tait and J. R. Jamieson :—

"Under the direction of Sir John Murray, an expedition in search of lime deposits visited Henderson Island in 1912. Though unsuccessful in their principal object, the members met with several interesting birds, three of which appear to be new and peculiar to the Island.

"Henderson (or Elizabeth) Island, one of the most southern and easterly islands of the Southern Pacific, lies about 120 miles to the north-east of Pitcairn Island.

"Very little appears to be known about this island, but in a little work on "Pitcairn" by the Rev. T. B. Murray, 1860, to which Mr. T. Iredale has kindly drawn my attention, we find on page 15 the following remarks :—'It is nearly 80 feet above the level of the sea, 5 miles in length, 1 mile in breadth, of volcanic formation, and covered with dead coral. The soil is poor and sandy. There are many trees and shrubs on the island, and it has been occasionally visited by the Pitcairn people chiefly for the sake of the timber found there.' Again, on page 273, we find (11th November, 1851) :—'Thirty-eight of the inhabitants sailed in the ship 'Sharon,' of Fairhaven, for the purpose of visiting Elizabeth Island. . . . . The soil is very scanty, totally unfit for cultivation. Various specimens of marine shells are dispersed all over the surface of the island, which, in combination with the thickly scattered pieces of coral, render travelling both difficult and dangerous. Water is found on the north-west part of the island, slowly dripping from the roof of a cave, which cannot be reached without the aid of ropes. The island rises about sixty feet above the level of the sea.'"

Acrocephalus taiti, sp. n.

Adult male and female. General colour above earth-brown, the greater wing-coverts with pale edges and the four outer tail-feathers tipped with white in decreasing proportions from the third outwards to the sixth pair ; lores, eyebrow-stripes,

and underparts white tinged with buff; thighs dusky; under wing-coverts and bend of wing washed with pale fawn-colour. Iris brown in the male, red in the female; bill grey; feet slate-grey.

Adult male. Total length about 180 mm.; culmen from feathers on forehead 16½; wing 84; tail 77; tarsus 32.

Adult female. Total length about 177 mm.; culmen from feathers on forehead 15½; wing 79; tail 74; tarsus 29.

Another male has a large portion of the plumage showing that curious tendency to albinism which is so often to be found in the allied *A. vaughani* Sharpe, from the Pitcairn Islands. This individual has the head mostly white, with the exception of a few dark feathers on the forehead and occiput; feathers of the upperparts and wing-coverts a mixture of brown and white, many of the brown feathers being tipped with whitish, producing a mottled appearance; primary-quills mostly dark brown, one or two of the middle and inner ones being tipped with white; secondary quills largely white on the left wing, less so on the right; tail mostly white, some of the middle feathers only being partially brown; underparts, including the sides of the head, chin, and throat, white. Iris brown; bill grey; feet slate-grey.

Types in the British Museum: ♂ ♀. Nos. 9 & 9 A. Henderson Island, S. Pacific, 27–29. x. 12. D. R. Tait coll.

Obs. This species differs from *A. vaughani* in having the feathers of the head uniform brown, not edged with yellowish-white, which gives the crown of that species a somewhat scaled appearance.

The amount of white in the plumage of Acrocephaline birds from Pitcairn and other Pacific Islands appears to vary greatly in different individuals, and is generally unevenly developed on the two sides of the body. It would seem as though it might be due to degeneration caused by inbreeding.

Vini hendersoni, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Appear to be most nearly allied to *Vini kuhli* (Vigors) from the Fanning Islands, but differ in many important particulars. The feathers of the occiput are dark green with brighter green shaft-streaks, like those of the crown, instead of deep purple; the tail-feathers have the terminal portion yellow tinged with greenish, and the basal portion mottled with dark green on the outer web and with scarlet and black, or scarlet, on the inner web, while in *V. kuhli* they are very differently coloured. The green of the neck extends on to the sides of the chest, and there is an indistinct dark purple band across the upper breast, which is wanting in the bird from the Fanning Islands. The tail is rather more wedge-shaped than in *V. kuhli*, the middle pair of tail-feathers being proportionately somewhat longer. Iris yellow; bill dark yellow; feet and legs yellowish-brown. Total length about 200 mm.; wing 125; tail 90.

Types in the British Museum: ♂ ♀. Nos. 21 & 22. Henderson Island. D. R. Tait coll.

Obs. The genus *Vini* has been characterized by Salvadori (*cf.* Cat. Birds B. M. xx. p. 11, and Wytsman's 'Genera Avium,' Psittaci, family Loriidæ, p. 2) as having the first three or four primaries notched at the tip; but this character is only found in a marked degree in *V. australis*, from Samoa and the Friendly Islands, while in *V. kuhli*, the type of the genus, it is much less apparent, as also in the present species from Henderson Island. This character appears to be of specific rather than of generic value.

It seems pretty certain that the true home of *V. kuhli* was the Society Group, in the Islands of Tahiti, Bora-Bora, &c., where it is probably now extinct, and that it must have been imported subsequently to the Fanning Group. The occurrence of the present species on Henderson Island strengthens this view, and the geographical range of the genus *Vini* would thus extend from Samoa and the Friendly Islands, where *V. australis* occurs, to Henderson Island. The Fanning Islands lie far to the north and are distant from Samoa about 1500 miles, and from Henderson Island about 3000 miles.

Porzana murrayi, sp. n.

Adult. Perhaps most nearly allied to the widely distributed *P. tabuensis* (Gmel.), but the entire plumage is deep black, with a slight greyish gloss. Iris red; bill black; feet orange. Total length about 180 mm.; culmen 22; wing 80; tail 39; tarsus 36; middle toe and claw 41.

Type in the British Museum: ♀ No. 3. Henderson Island, 21.x.12. D. R. Tait coll.

Obs. This species is evidently non-migratory, as is evidenced by its comparatively short feeble wings, which are much shorter than in *P. tabuensis*. In general appearance the species recalls *Lymnocorax niger* (Gmel.), which is widely distributed over Africa, but the latter is of a rather greyer black and has the bill dull green.

The young in first plumage is rather greyer on the throat and underparts than the adult, and has the legs black. Wing 76 mm.

The nestling is covered with deep velvety-black down.

This species is named in honour of Sir John Murray.

Ptilopus coralensis, Peale.

The type of this species was obtained at Carlsoff I., Paumotu Group, which lies about 100 miles to the north-west of Henderson Island. The only example in the British Museum is a specimen from Hervey Island, the type of *P. chalcurus* Gray, which is obviously an immature bird, with the tips of the outermost primary-quills less attenuated.

The Henderson Island bird appears to belong to this species. It has the iris brown, bill dark yellow, and the legs and feet reddish-pink.

Two adult specimens were procured on the 5th of November.

In addition to the above, the following species were also obtained at Henderson Island:—

Sula piscator, Linn.
Procelsterna cærulea (Bennett).
Anous leucocapillus (Gould).
Gygis candida (Gmel.).
Totanus incanus (Gmel.).
Calidris arenaria (Linn.).

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited and made remarks on abnormally marked eggs of the following species :—

Wheatear. (*Saxicola œnanthe* Linn.) A clutch of six eggs from Sussex, distinctly marked with small spots of pale reddish-brown.

Nightjar. (*Caprimulgus europæus* Linn.) A clutch of two eggs from Suffolk, one of which had an unusually large black-brown blotch measuring one inch in length by half an inch in width, the second egg being quite normal.

Redbreast. (*Erithacus rubecula* Linn.) A clutch of five eggs from Kent, abnormally marked round the larger end with rich chestnut-red forming a cap.

Whitethroat. (*Sylvia communis* Lath.) Two clutches of five eggs of the rare erythristic variety—one British, the other Continental.

Peregrine Falcon. (*Falco peregrinus* Tunstall.) A clutch of four eggs from Pembrokeshire, with pale pinkish ground-colour, large shell-markings of lavender-grey, and surface-markings of orange-red.

Dartford Warbler. (*Melizophilus undatus* Bodd.) A nest lined almost entirely with dodder and a few feathers. England.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited a variety of the Kingfisher from Haywards Heath, the property of Mr. J. Brooman of that town. The crown of the head was pale blue-green with the normal mottlings ; the lores and ear-coverts pale chestnut ; the sides of the throat white ; the back greyish-white, tinged with azure-blue ; the upper tail-coverts greenish-blue ; the tail greyish, tinged bluish-green ; the underparts pale chestnut ; the wings greyish-white, tinged with pale blue. Bill normally coloured ; feet orange.

Mr. Rothschild remarked that, as far as he was aware, very few specimens of the Kingfisher in abnormal plumage were known.

Mr. C. Ingram remarked that it might interest the Members to learn that examples of the Greater Bird-of-Paradise (*Paradisea apoda*) released on Little Tobago by his father in September 1909 were apparently thriving. It was, of course, impossible to estimate their numbers amidst the tropical vegetation of the island, but as several had been seen and heard, and as on one occasion four had been observed together, it was reasonable to presume that they had at least maintained their numbers. In all forty-seven birds had been released on the island.

Mr. H. Munt exhibited eggs of the following species, hitherto unknown or rare in collections :—

1. Black Lory. (*Chalcopsittacus ater.*) One egg laid in captivity in 1908 in Mr. Brook's aviaries at Hoddam Castle, Dumfries-shire. $31\frac{1}{2} \times 25$ mm.

2. Red-fronted Lory. (*Chalcopsittacus scintillatus.*) One egg laid in captivity in 1908 in Mr. Brook's aviaries. 38×25 mm.

3. Black-throated Lory. (*Trichoglossus nigrogularis.*) Laid in captivity in 1912 in M. Pauwel's aviaries in Belgium. 26×24 mm.

4. Pearl-spotted Fruit-Pigeon. (*Ptilopus zonurus.*) Laid in captivity in 1912 in M. Pauwel's aviaries. 37×24 mm.

Mr. R. H. Read made some remarks on the nesting-habits of certain birds which he had observed during the past year. He exhibited a nest of the Song-Thrush in which the four eggs originally laid had probably become addled by the hard frosts early in April. Instead of forsaking the nest and building a new one, the birds had plastered these eggs into the mud lining the bottom of the nest, leaving about one-fourth of the surface exposed. Three fresh eggs were then laid on the top of them.

He also exhibited a nest of the Reed-Warbler with an egg of the Cuckoo woven into the lining; also one of the Warbler's eggs which he had found at the root of the large dock plant in which the nest had been built by the river-side.

Mr. Read stated that he had found two nests of the Hedge-Sparrow a few hundred yards apart, each of which contained an egg of the Cuckoo, evidently laid by the same bird. Both the Cuckoo's eggs had been addled by the frosts at the end of May, the yolks being quite black. The Hedge-Sparrows' eggs were quite fresh, and one nest which contained two eggs when found had four two days later. It seemed evident that the Cuckoo's eggs had been laid some few days before those of the Hedge-Sparrows, and had possibly remained on the ground and become frozen before being deposited in the nests of their hosts.

He further stated that he had found a second laying of Starlings' eggs in two nests, from each of which a brood had previously been hatched out. This was the first instance he had ever met with of a second brood in a Starling's nest.

Mr. Read also remarked that for many years past he had noticed that the last broods of the House-Martin on his brother's premises in Somersetshire left their nests with unfailing regularity on the last day of September or early the following morning; and, further, that as insect-life became scarce at that time of the year, these broods were fed not only by their own parents, but also by many other adult birds, all working for the welfare of the community. The young were thus well-nourished and able to leave the nest in good condition in time for their autumn migration.

The question of the double brood of Starlings raised an interesting discussion, which was joined in by the Chairman, Dr. Hartert, Mr. Meade-Waldo, and others. The general opinion was that the second brood occasionally reared in a nest was the offspring of different parents.

Mr. E. Bidwell said that he did not believe that the Starling was double-brooded, and in support of this statement quoted the observations of Mr. J. Whitaker at Rainworth, who had put up ninety boxes for Starlings: when every box was occupied there were sometimes two

or three pairs which used them after the first brood had flown. These were all birds which had not previously been able to find a nesting-place. When the ninety boxes were not all used there were never any late nests. If the Starling was double-brooded, many of these boxes would have been occupied a second time. These observations were the result of nearly forty years' experience.

The Chairman announced that the next Meeting of the Club would be held on the THIRD Wednesday of the month instead of on the second Wednesday.

As none of the Members of the Club have intimated their desire to exhibit lantern-slides at the March Meeting, the evening will be devoted to the ordinary business.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 19th of March, 1913, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.; the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members of the Club intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. Witherby, at 326 High Holborn, W.C.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor, also to supply him with a *written* account of anything intended for publication.]

(Signed)

W. Rothschild, *Chairman.* W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *Editor.* H. F. Witherby, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CLXXXVI.

The hundred and eighty-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, the 19th of March, 1913.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, Ph.D., F.R.S.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker, D. A. Bannerman, R. M. Barrington, E. Bidwell, C. D. Borrer, P. F. Bunyard, A. Collett, Guy L. Ewen, Major B. R. Horsbrugh, C. Ingram, Staff-Surgeon Kenneth H. Jones, R.N., Capt. H. Lynes, R.N., W. E. F. Macmillan, G. M. Mathews, E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, H. Munt, E. Mackenzie Murray, C. Oldham, C. E. Pearson, A. E. Price, F. R. Ratcliff, C. B. Rickett, W. L. Sclater, D. Seth-Smith, M. C. Seton, E. F. Stanford, C. G. Talbot Ponsonby, N. F. Ticehurst, F.R.C.S., J. Wilkinson, H. F. Witherby (*Sec. & Treas.*).

Visitors:—A. F. L. Bacon, G. K. Baynes, E. M. Bidwell, J. Borrer, Major G. E. Bruce, J. H. Crow, Capt. Dayrell Davies, R.N., A. Radclyffe Dugmore, C. E. Fagan, I.S.O., T. Iredale, J. C. Phillips, W. J. W. Ryan, A. G. L. Sladen, J. K. Stanford, H. W. B. Vernon, G. J. D. Warner.

Mr. G. M. Mathews described the following new subspecies of Australian birds :—

Ptilotis ornata wesleydalei, subsp. n.

Adult male. Differs from *P. o. ornata* Gould, in being much darker above, and in having the yellow ear-patch and the dark stripes on the under surface much more pronounced.

Hab. Inland districts of South-west Australia.

Type : ♂. No. 3260. 16. vi. 08, Broome Hill, South-west Australia. T. Carter coll.

Ptilotis ornata underbooli, subsp. n. (Mallee Yellow-plumed Honey-eater.)

Adult male. Differs from *P. o. tailemi* Mathews, in its smaller size, more curved bill, lighter upper- and under-parts, and smaller yellow ear-patch.

Hab. Mallee country of Victoria and South Australia.

Type : ♂. No. 6276. 12. ix. 10, Underbool, Victoria. T. Tregellas coll.

Mr. T. Iredale, introduced by Mr. G. M. Mathews, exhibited the type-specimen of *Larus affinis* and made the following remarks :—

"*Larus affinis* was described by Reinhardt (Vidensk. Meddel. Kjöbenhavn, 1853, p. 78) from a single specimen obtained in Greenland. The name was applied by Howard Saunders to a large Siberian Gull, and his identification has been accepted up to the present time. The pale-backed race of *Larus fuscus*, recently described by Dr. P. R. Lowe under the name of *L. f. britannicus*, suggested a misuse of the name given by Reinhardt, his description and measurements agreeing very closely with those of the form described by Dr. Lowe, whilst they disagreed entirely with those of the bird to which Saunders had applied Reinhardt's name. Such a conclusion necessitated a re-examination of Reinhardt's type-specimen ; and upon application to Herr Winge, of the Copenhagen Museum, it was forwarded to me and is exhibited here to-night. It has been examined by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant at the British Museum, also by Dr. Hartert and the Hon. Walter Rothschild ; and the

unanimous conclusion is that it is undoubtedly a specimen of the pale Western race of the Lesser Black-backed Gull. Consequently, that bird will have to bear the name of

Larus fuscus affinis Reinhardt,

while *L. f. britannicus* Lowe becomes a synonym.

"The bird, which is described in the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum,' vol. xxv. pp. 254-5 (1896), under the name *Larus affinis*, must therefore be called by some other name. The nomenclature of the genus *Larus* is, however, in such a state of confusion that without a monographic revision no conclusion on this point can be arrived at. Meantime, it is necessary to have some name by which the larger bird can be known, and I therefore propose for it that of

Larus fuscus antelius, nom. n.

(= *Larus affinis* Saunders (nec Reinhardt), Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. xxv. p. 255.)

"Type in the British Museum: ♂. 7. ix. 76, Obi River. O. Finsch coll."

Mr. D. A. Bannerman said that, as far as was at present known, the form of Black-backed Gull found in the Canary Islands was intermediate in colour between the two races distinguished by Dr. Lowe, but, owing to the meagre material from those islands, no definite conclusions could be arrived at. He hoped that when he returned from his forthcoming expedition to the Canary Islands he would be able to throw more light on the question, by procuring a series of this Gull in breeding-plumage; he also hoped to be able to find a breeding colony.

Mr. Meade-Waldo said that he had shot a specimen of the Lesser Black-backed Gull in the Canary Islands, in which the back was very dark. It should be noted, however, that it was the only dark-backed bird he had obtained.

Mr. Bannerman said that the specimen referred to by Mr. Meade-Waldo agreed exactly with eastern dark-backed

examples of *L. fuscus*, and that the bird was no doubt an accidental straggler to the islands.

Mr. E. Bidwell pointed out that the inaugural Meeting of the Club had been held on the 5th of October, 1892, so that the June Meeting would complete the 21st Session. The Club had been so useful, and so successful in carrying out the objects for which it was founded, that he hoped every member would agree that "its coming of age" was an event that should not be passed over without recognition. He would therefore like to submit the following proposal :—

"As the June Meeting will complete the Twenty-first Session of the British Ornithologists' Club, the Committee be requested to consider some means of celebrating its coming of age and be asked to report on the matter at an early meeting."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Meade-Waldo and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Witherby suggested that any proposals as to what form the celebration should take should be forwarded to him, so that he might place them before the Committee.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited the eggs, down, and feathers from the abdomen of various species of Grey Geese, including *Anser anser*, *A. albifrons*, *A. finmarchicus*, *A. fabalis*, and *A. brachyrhynchus*. He called attention to the announcement in 'British Birds,' vol. vi. p. 320, in regard to the recent discovery of the breeding-haunts of the White-fronted Goose, *A. albifrons*, in Central Iceland, and read a communication from Mr. R. Plumb, of Preston, to that effect. He remarked that, as far as he was aware, this was the first authenticated record of this Goose having bred in Iceland. The discovery was made in 1911 by native collectors, who were struck by the small size of the eggs, which were smaller than those of any other Goose which they had previously collected. A few eggs had apparently reached this country, but without any down and feathers. In 1912 Mr. Plumb received a further

consignment with down and feathers from the abdomen, and from some of these specimens descriptions had been drawn up.

The eggs were smaller than those of any of the other Grey Geese mentioned above, with the exception of small eggs of *A. finmarchicus*, but were considerably heavier, the grain of the shell being similar to that of *A. finmarchicus*, but a little coarser in some specimens.

Average weight of five eggs :—

A. anser.	*A. albifrons.*	*A. finmarchicus.*	*A. fabalis.*	*A. brachyrhynchus.*
17·134 g.	10·292 g.	7·811 g.	11·736 g.	12·075 g.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited mounted specimens of the down and feathers from the abdomen of each species for comparison, and called attention to their characteristic features—those of *A. albifrons* he considered to be distinct and not easily confused with the others.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 9th of April, 1913, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.; the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members of the Club intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. Witherby, at 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union will be held on the same day (9th of April), and the Annual Dinner of the B. O. U. will take place conjointly with that of the B. O. C.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor, also to supply him with a *written* account of anything intended for publication.]

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *Editor.* H. F. Witherby, *Sec. & Treas.*

At the termination of the conjoint dinner of the B. O. U. and B. O. C., at which Mr. Edward Bidwell presided, Colonel R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay, the newly elected President of the British Ornithologists' Union, proposed the health of His Majesty the King and that of "Absent Ibises," as is customary at the Annual Dinner.

He said that, in proposing the latter toast, he expressed a hope that several Members of the Union who were at present engaged in carrying on the work of exploration in unknown parts of the globe would soon be safely back in England, and would be able to entertain their less adventurous Brother "Ibises" with details of their experiences in the field in New Guinea, Africa, and elsewhere.

Mr. Bidwell then vacated the Chair in favour of Dr. P. L. Sclater, who, as Chairman of the B. O. C., conducted the business during the remainder of the evening.

Mr. H. F. Witherby exhibited a hybrid Wigeon and Teal. The bird was a male in nearly full plumage, and had been lent for exhibition by Mr. J. Beddall Smith, who obtained it from a decoy in Essex in November 1912. The specimen had been fully described in 'British Birds' (vol. vi. pp. 345–7).

Mr. Witherby also exhibited specimens of a Bunting collected by Captain H. Lynes, R.N., in China, and remarked that they appeared to belong to an undescribed subspecies, which he proposed to call

Emberiza yessoënsis continentalis, subsp. n.

Adult. Similar to *E. y. yessoënsis* (Swinhoe) from Japan, but with less chestnut-buff on the upperparts, which are paler and more pink, especially on the hind-neck, rump, and upper tail-coverts, as also on the edgings of the feathers of the mantle and wings. The crown of the female and of the male in winter-plumage is less rufous and more distinctly striped with greyish-white. The underparts are whiter and much less heavily washed with buff than in Japanese specimens. The wing-measurement is about the same as in the

typical form, viz. two males 63 and 68 mm., four females 63 to 65 mm.

Type in the Collection of H. F. Witherby: ♂. No. 767. 31. i. 11. Yashwanen, near Nanking, China. H. Lynes coll.

Obs. Captain Lynes collected five examples in winter (December to March) on the Yangtze, and these agree precisely with a specimen from Amur Bai (3. iv. 94) in the Natural History Museum. I have compared them with eighteen specimens of the Japanese form, including the type. *E. yessoënsis* was described by Swinhoe from a specimen collected by Blakiston in Japan, and the bird is now known to breed there (C. Ingram, 'Ibis,' 1908, p. 155). Probably all the specimens which winter in China belong to the new form described above, which, no doubt, breeds somewhere in Eastern Siberia, and probably in the basin of the Amur.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst exhibited a series of female examples of *Motacilla citreoloides* (Hodgs.) on behalf of Capt. C. H. T. Whitehead, who had collected them in the Kaghan Valley, N.W.F. India, and made the following remarks:—

"In the 'Fauna of British India,' vol. ii. pp. 298–9, Oates states that it is pretty certain that the sexes of this Wagtail are alike and that the young assume adult plumage at the first spring-moult. Capt. Whitehead, in his paper on the birds of Kohat and Kurram ('Ibis,' 1909, pp. 242 & 621), indicated that this species takes at least two years to attain the fully adult plumage, though it breeds in its first summer-dress; but he did not realise, until he obtained the series which I exhibit here to-night, that the female *never* resembles the adult male in plumage. Capt. Whitehead was examined many pairs of breeding birds in confirmation of this statement. The females exhibited were all shot at the nest, and in every instance they were paired with a fully adult male. The specimens shown are easily divisible into two groups: those with the forehead, supercilium, and the whole of the underparts bright canary-colour, which, until further proof comes to hand, we may assume to be

fully adult females; and those in which these parts are yellowish-white, which we may assume to be females in their first year. Capt. Whitehead has also found the male breeding in its first summer-dress, which he has described ('Ibis,' 1909, p. 621) as being dark grey above with some black feathers, and with the head and under-surface deep yellow, sullied on the crown and flanks. A specimen in this plumage is in the Natural History Museum."

Mr. Geoffrey Schwann exhibited an example of an abnormally-coloured female Rook, with much of the plumage of the back and wings greyish. It had been shot by Mr. P. R. Croft at St. Margaret's, Ware, Hertfordshire, on the 12th of March, 1913, and had been noticed when a young bird in 1912. A bird with similar light-coloured plumage had been observed three years ago in the same locality.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant said that he had recently received a Rook with most of the plumage rusty-brown and in very worn condition. The specimen had been shot at Charterhall, Duns, Berwickshire, and forwarded to the Natural History Museum by Colonel A. R. Trotter, who said that other similar specimens had been met with in the neighbourhood.

Major H. J. Kelsall, R.A., exhibited an abnormal specimen of the Standard-winged Nightjar, *Macrodipteryx macrodipterus* (Lath.), in which the 8th as well as the 9th primary quill in the right wing was elongated. The left wing was normal. All three elongated pinions were of the same length, viz. 395 mm.

The specimen had been shot by Capt. H. S. Perrott, R.G.A., near Waterloo (about 20 miles S.S.E. of Freetown), Sierra Leone, on the 11th of February, 1912, and had been given to Major Kelsall shortly after for preservation. The specimen was now in the Collection of the Natural History Museum.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant wished to call attention to the fact that, when describing the birds from Henderson Island,

recently presented to the Natural History Museum by Messrs. Tait and Jamieson (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. xxxi. pp. 58–61), he had unfortunately overlooked the fact that a paper describing three new species from that island had already been published by Mr. A. J. North in the 'Records of the Australian Museum,' vii. pp. 29–31 (1908). He was indebted to Mr. Charles W. Richmond, of the United States National Museum, Washington, for very kindly calling his attention to this paper. The name of the new species of Parroquet, *Calliptilus* (?) *stepheni* North, had, however, been accidently omitted from the systematic portion of the 'Zoological Record' for 1908; and it had also been overlooked by Count Salvadori in Wytsman's 'Genera Avium,' Family Loriidæ (1910). Thus the description of this species had been lost sight of. The *Acrocephalus,* which was the next bird examined, had not been previously recorded, so afforded no reference to Mr. North's paper. The Rail and the Pigeon had both been described as new species by Mr. North, and were duly mentioned in the 'Record' for 1908, but had been missed.

Thus *Vini hendersoni* became a synonym of *Calliptilus* (?) *stepheni* North, and the species should stand as

Vini stepheni (North).

Porzana murrayi became a synonym of

Porzana atra North.

The Fruit-Pigeon described as a new species by Mr. North under the name of *Ptilopus insularis* was almost certainly synonymous with *P. coralensis* Peale, but this could not be definitely decided until the birds from Henderson Island had been compared with typical specimens of *P. coralensis,* which Mr. Richmond had kindly offered to forward for comparison.

Mr. Witherby wished to add the following note:—At the meeting held in February 1912 he had exhibited some Nuthatches from Spain and Portugal, and had shown that

they were separable as a local race (Bull. B. O. C. xxix. p. 75). Mr. Witherby had referred to this form as *S. minor* Brehm, Allg. D. Naturh. Zeitung, 1857, p. 447, but Dr. C. E. Hellmayr had recently very kindly pointed out to him that this name was preoccupied by *S. minor* Bechstein in Latham's Allg. Übersicht der Vög. i. part 2, 1793, p. 533 footnote, which was a synonym for the North-American *S. pusilla*. It was therefore necessary to give a new name to the race of Nuthatch inhabiting Spain and Portugal, and Mr. Witherby proposed to call it

SITTA EUROPÆA HISPANIENSIS, nom. n.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 14th of May, 1913, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.; the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members of the Club intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. Witherby, at 326 High Holborn, W.C.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor, also to supply him with a *written* account of anything intended for publication.]

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.* W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, *Editor.* H. F. WITHERBY, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CLXXXVIII.

The hundred and eighty-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, the 14th of May, 1913.

Chairman: F. G. Penrose, M.D.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker, E. Bidwell, N. Chaplin, H. J. Elwes, F.R.S., E. Gibson, H. Goodchild, C. H. B. Grant, Major H. H. Harington, G. Seccombe Hett, M.D., G. A. Macmillan, W. E. F. Macmillan, G. M. Mathews, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant (*Editor*), C. E. Pearson, Major F. W. Proctor, W. P. Pycraft, C. B. Rickett, W. L. Sclater, D. Seth-Smith, L. M. Seth-Smith, Major R. Sparrow, J. H. Stenhouse, M.B., R.N., H. M. Wallis, C. Whymper, S. L. Whymper, H. F. Witherby (*Sec. & Treas.*).

Visitors:—H. M. Coltart, J. G. Cornish, C. E. Fagan.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described and exhibited examples of a new species of Thrush which he proposed to call

Oreocincla whiteheadi, sp. n.

Adult. Nearest to *Oreocincla mollissima* (Blyth), but differs in having the whole upper plumage olive-grey instead

of rich olive-brown with a strong rufescent tinge; underparts also without any of the bright rufous tint, which is always present to a greater or less extent in *O. mollissima*, though there is a very slight tinge of ochre on the breast of one of the adult birds; the whole crown of the head is strongly marked with pale shaft-stripes, a character *never* present in the adult of *O. mollissima*. Bill from gape 28·4 mm., from feathers of forehead 21·6; wing 142·5–150; tail 95·4–98; tarsus 30·4.

Younger examples shew the same comparative differences to the young of *O. mollissima* as are shewn in the adults: that is to say, they are much less rufous both above and below; they are also much more strongly striated and have the dark margins of the feathers of the upperparts more conspicuous.

Obs. I have named this bird in honour of Capt. C. H. T. Whitehead, who discovered it in the Khagan Valley, in the Afridi Country, North-West Frontier Province of India.

Capt. Whitehead has furnished me with the following interesting notes:—

"This Thrush differs entirely in its habits from *O. mollissima*, which latter bird is an inhabitant of dense forests growing at a much lower elevation. This bird, on the contrary, frequents bare precipitous slopes above the limits of tree-growth at an elevation of 12,500–14,500 feet, where it nests in clefts in the rocks on cliffs. The notes I heard it utter were similar to the rattling alarm-notes (like a policeman's rattle) made by *Merula maxima*, which occurs on the same ground; also the single call-note, but I was too late in the season to hear its song. It was quite common in this one Valley (Khagan), but very wild and difficult to approach once the young ones could shift for themselves. As far as I could judge by observing (through glasses) pairs feeding their young, the male and female differed in no way from one another. In life the white bar bordered with black under the wing seemed to me very conspicuous."

Mr. Stuart Baker also made the following remarks upon *Oreocincla mollissima* and *O. dixoni* :—

"In working through the large series of *O. mollissima* in the British Museum I was greatly struck by (1) the great range of colour in that species and (2) by the variation in in the size of the bill.

"As regards colour, that of the upperparts varies from a rather pale rufescent olive-brown to a rich rufous-brown slightly tinged with olive. This variation in colour does not differ according to locality, for though Eastern specimens, more especially those from Nepal, are more richly coloured than those from the Western portions of its range, there are individuals from Nepal, Eastern India, and Burmah quite as pale as any from either Sikkim or Simla.

"The bill varies greatly in size, not only in length, but also in stoutness; in length it varies from 24 to 37 mm., and in depth at the base from 6 to 8·5 mm. The size of the bill is certainly no indication of sex, but it may be that the oldest birds have the longest and stoutest bills, though this is difficult to prove, for many apparently young birds have bills slightly longer than those which appear to be older.

"As regards *Oreocincla dixoni* this bird certainly cannot be separated from *O. mollissima*. The two points of difference are said to be (*a*) the mottling or barring of the greater wing-coverts in *O. dixoni* and (*b*) the longer tail.

"The ranges of *O. dixoni* and *O. mollissima* are identical, and extend from Chamba in the extreme N.W. to the Shan States in the extreme S.E. Throughout the whole of this range one finds specimens which exhibit no trace of wing-bars or mottling on the coverts, some which have faint signs of one or two wing-bars, others which show a little mottling on the coverts, and a few which have these feathers quite richly marked.

"The measurements of the whole series in the Museum of both *O. dixoni* and *O. mollissima* shew that the tails of the former vary between 113 and 130 mm. and those of the latter between 100 and 126 mm.

"The mottling appears to be a sign of great vigour and

high condition in old birds, and as such is accompanied by a slightly longer *average* measurement of the tail."

Mr. Stuart Baker drew attention to a clerical error in his description of *Acanthopneuste trochiloides harterti* (Bull. B.O.C. xxxi. p. 36), where the outermost pair of tail-feathers were described as being white on the *outer* webs, instead of on the *inner* webs.

Mr. Stuart Baker also exhibited the following eggs:—

(1) A series of eggs of *Anthus rufulus* and *Anthus richardi striolatus*, shewing that it is quite impossible to differentiate between the eggs of the two forms.

(2) A nest and eggs of *Dicæum trigonostigma*, shewing that the eggs of this *Dicæum* are white, as are the eggs of almost all other species of this genus, and not spotted, as described in the Catalogue from eggs presented by Sir Hugh Low (Cat. Eggs. B.M. v. p. 8).

(3) Four clutches of the eggs of *Zoothera marginata*, shewing that the single egg in the B.M. Collection is either an abnormal egg, both in size and coloration, or, as is more likely, is an egg of *Geocichla citrina* (Cat. Eggs B.M. iv. p. 114).

(4) Eggs of birds not represented in the Museum Collection, shewing as far as possible the range of coloration in the various species.

Cissa ornata	2 clutches.
Zoothera monticola	4 „
Tribura major	6 „
Tribura luteiventris	8 „
Tribura mandellii	8 „
Hemixus flavala	4 „
Rubigula melanicterus	4 „
Spizixus canifrons	8 „
Ianthocincla austeni	1 clutch.
Grammatoptila austeni	1 „
Trochalopterum chrysopterum	4 clutches.
Trochalopterum phœniceum bakeri	4 „
Actinodura egertoni khasiana	4 „

Staphidia rufigenis	6 clutches.
Pseudominla cinerea	2 „
Urocichla longicaudata	1 clutch and 3 single [eggs
Cyornis pallidipes	1 „
Cyornis astigma	1 „
Cyornis hodgsoni	2 clutches.
Hirundo daurica	1 clutch.
Hirundo striolata	1 „

This valuable series of eggs had been presented by Mr. Stuart Baker to the Trustees of the British Museum.

Mr. L. M. Seth-Smith exhibited a most interesting series of eggs of various species of birds which he had met with nesting in Uganda (see p. 84), and made the following remarks :—

"My exhibit consists of a number of eggs of Uganda birds collected at Mpumu, some 15 miles east of Kampala. In most instances the parent birds were obtained, so as to ensure correct identification, and these are shewn together with the eggs. In some cases it was not possible to obtain the parent-bird, but I feel confident that almost every clutch of eggs has been correctly identified, with the following possible exceptions :—

"(1) *Cossypha natalensis.* I saw the bird on several occasions, and believe my identification to be correct; but it is by no means a common species in Uganda.

"(2) *Hyphantornis xanthops.* A set of white eggs.

"(3) *Prinia mystacea.* A set of blue eggs.

"In every case the bird was seen, but with such species it is possible to make a mistake unless the bird is obtained.

"Though most of the species represented are by no means uncommon birds, their eggs have, I believe, not previously been exhibited at the Club, and in some cases, at least, have not been described.

"The eggs of *Balearica pavonina* and *Otis melanogaster* were obtained in other parts of Uganda, but not at Mpumu, although the birds are to be found there."

Name.	No. of clutches exhibited.	S. = bird shot. N. = bird not shot.	No. in clutch.	Month.
1. Cinnyris chloropygius	1	S.	2	September.
2. Chalcomitra acik	2	S. N.	1	May, June.
3. Anthothreptes hypodila ..	2	N.	2	May.
4. Passer diffusus	3	S. N. N.	3 or 4	April and June.
5. Chrysomitris frontalis	1	S.	2	May.
6. Serinus sharpei	1	S.	2	October.
7. Nigrita schistacea	1	S.	4	May.
8. Pyrenestes ostrinus	1	S.	3	April.
9. Heterhyphantes nigricollis.	8	S. S. S. S. S. S. N. N.	2 or 3	April, May, June, July.
10. Hyphantornis xanthops ..	2	S. N.	2	April.
11. Hyphantornis dimidiatus ..	2	S. S.	2	March, April
12. Hyphanturgus ocularius ..	2	S. S.	2	April, August.
13. Sitagra pelzelni.....	1	N.	2	April.
14. Campophaga phœnicea ..	1	S.	2	March.
15. Pycnonotus layardi	1	S.	2	April.
16. Andropadus virens	1	N.	2	April.
17. Bleda pallidigula	1	S.	2	March.
18. Burnesia reichenowi	1	N.	2	June.
19. Prinia mystacea	3	S. S. N.	2 or 3	March, June, Sept.
20. Cisticola sylvia	2	S. S.	2 or 3	April and Sept.
*21. Camaroptera chrysocnemis.	1	S.	?	June.
22. Cossypha melanonota	1	S.	3	May.
23. Cossypha natalensis	1	N.	3	May.
24. Turdus pelios.....	2	S. N.	3	April and May.
25. Platystira cyanea	1	S.	2	April.
26. Elminia longicauda	2	S. N.	2	April, June.
27. Terpsiphone emini	2	S. N.	2	April, June.
28. Eurystomus afer	1	S.	2	April.
29. Otis melanogaster	1	N.	1	April.
30. Balearica pavonina	1	N.	2	October.

* This nest contained 1 white egg of *Chrysococcyx klaasi* and 1 of *Camaroptera chrysocnemis*.

The Chairman congratulated Mr. Seth-Smith on his beautiful exhibit and on the care which he had taken to identify the eggs of each species.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant added that Mr. Seth-Smith had most generously promised to present this interesting series to the Trustees of the British Museum, who were already

indebted to him for a valuable collection of birds' skins from the Mabira Forest.

Major H. J. Kelsall, R.A., sent a description of a new species of *Laniarius* from Sierra Leone, W. Africa, which he proposed to name :—

Laniarius helenæ, sp. n.

Adult female. Nearly allied to *L. barbarus* (L.), which it closely resembles, but differs in having the forehead, crown, and nape rich orange-brown instead of yellow-olive as in that species. Entire back, wings, tail, and a band from the base of the bill through the eyes (including the lores, supercilium, cheeks, and ear-coverts) black, with a slight greenish gloss on the mantle and edges of the upper wing-coverts; concealed white subterminal spots or bars on the scapulars and feathers of the rump, the sides of the latter having the longer feathers tipped with ochreous-buff. Crown and nape orange-brown shading into bright orange on the forehead and sides of the crown; chin, throat, breast, flanks, and upper abdomen bright crimson-scarlet slightly tinged with orange on the chin; lower abdomen, thighs, and under tail-coverts dull ochreous-buff.

Iris dark brown; bill black; legs and feet slate-grey.

Total length in the flesh 233 mm.; bill about 30; wing 99; tail 105; tarsus 33.

Obs. A single specimen was obtained by me on a small mangrove-covered island just off Bonthe, Sherbro Island.

I have named this species after my wife.

L. mufumbiri Ogilvie-Grant is easily distinguished from this species by the colour of the crown which is yellow-olive, by the colour of the thighs which are black and white, and by having white tips to some of the upper wing-coverts.

Hab. Sierra Leone.

Type in the British Museum: ♀. No. 733. Bonthe, Sherbro Island, 30. ix. 12. Presented by Major H. J. Kelsall.

Mr. C. E. Fagan informed the Members of the Club that Mr. G. W. Bury, who had already done a considerable amount of collecting for the Natural History Museum, both

in N. Africa and Arabia, had landed at Hodeida, on the Red Sea coast, and had succeeded in penetrating to the mountains of the interior of Yemen, where he had formed a considerable collection of birds round Menacha and Hajeilah, at elevations of from 7,000 to 8,000 feet. Mr. Bury had experienced considerable difficulty in carrying out this interesting exploration, and Mr. Fagan thought he was to be highly congratulated on the success of his undertaking.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant said that he had always suspected that the high mountain-ranges of Yemen would yield many interesting forms of birds, and this supposition had been fully borne out, as would be seen by the results attained. He then exhibited and described examples of the following new species, which had been procured by Mr. G. W. Bury :—

Turdus menachensis, sp. n.

Adult male. General colour above, including the crown and sides of the head, greyish olive-brown ; ear-coverts rather browner ; chin and throat whitish, the latter more or less washed with buff, each feather with a broad blackish shaft-stripe giving these parts a heavily streaked appearance ; chest greyer than the upperparts, with dark shaft-streaks ; breast greyish, inclining to white on the belly ; flanks washed with rusty ; under tail-coverts whitish, with a broad brownish submarginal band. Quills and tail-feathers blackish ; the outer webs of the secondaries, outer margins of the primaries, middle tail-feathers, and outer webs of the outer pairs greyish olive-brown, slightly paler than the back ; under wing-coverts and axillaries bright rust-red. Iris pale brown ; bill chrome-yellow ; bare orbital skin umber-brown ; gape and feet chrome-yellow. Total length in the flesh 270 mm. ; wing 127 ; tail 115 ; tarsus 32.

Adult female. Similar in plumage to the male, but rather smaller. Wing 115 mm. ; tail 110.

Hab. Yemen.

Types in the British Museum : ♂. No. 83. 28. xii. 12 ; ♀. No. 127. 3. i. 13. Menacha, 7000–8000 ft. G. W. Bury coll.

Obs. This species has no near ally. As regards the colour of the upperparts, it perhaps most nearly resembles the female of *T. atrigularis*, but the latter has a much shorter tail and the underparts are quite different. A female of *T. atrigularis* was actually obtained in the same locality. The most distinctive characters in the present species are the unusual length of the tail, the dark streaks on the chest, and the bright rust-red under wing-coverts and axillaries.

Parisoma buryi, sp. n.

Adult. Most nearly allied to *P. jacksoni* Sharpe from Mt. Elgon and *P. lugens* Rüpp. from Abyssinia. General colour above dark brown, almost sooty-brown on the crown and nape; quills blackish edged externally with pale whitish-grey; the tail-feathers blackish narrowly tipped with whitish, widest on the outermost pair; chin, throat, and cheeks whitish, shading into grey on the underparts and pale rufous on the lower belly and flanks; under tail-coverts pale brownish-white. The shafts of the quills are feeble; the 1st primary is nearly two-thirds of the length of the 2nd, which is about 9 mm. shorter than the 3rd and 5 mm. shorter than the 10th; the 3rd is 3 mm. shorter than the 4th; the 5th and 6th slightly the longest. The tail is slightly rounded, the outer pair of feathers being about 8 mm. shorter than the middle pair. Iris pale yellow, with a bluish tint; bill rusty black; feet pinkish-grey. Total length in the flesh 165 mm.; wing 70; tail 71; tarsus 25.

Hab. Yemen.

Type in the British Museum: Adult. No. 146. 6. i. 13, Menacha, 7000 ft. G. W. Bury coll.

Œnanthe yemenensis, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *S. bottæ* Bonap., but the crown is darker, each feather being blackish narrowly edged with brownish-grey; the back and rump are light brownish-grey, in marked contrast with the crown; there is a short white streak behind the eye; the buff on the underparts is generally much paler, and there is less white on the basal part of the outer tail-feathers. The bill is longer and stouter,

and measures 17½ mm. from the feathers on the forehead to the tip (as compared with 15 mm. in *S. bottæ*). Bill and feet black. Total length in the flesh 180 mm.; wing 105; tail 61; tarsus 34.

Adult female. Similar in plumage to the male, but rather smaller. Wing 100 mm.; tail 61.

Hab. Yemen.

Types in the British Museum: ♂. No. 301; ♀. No. 300, 25. i. 13. Menacha, 7000 ft. G. W. Bury coll.

Accentor fagani, sp. n.

Adult male. This species has no very close ally. On the upperparts it bears a general resemblance to *A. ocularis* Radde, from the mountain-ranges south-west of the Caspian, having, like that species, a strong whitish eyebrow-streak, extending backwards to the occiput, but not united posteriorly with the distinct white malar stripe; the back brown, heavily streaked with black, not unlike that of *A. modularis* (Linn.); underparts whitish tinged with buff, especially on the breast, the feathers on the sides of the throat, also the breast and flanks, with blackish spots or streaks. Iris light brown; upper mandible black, lower mandible horn-colour; feet pale brown. Total length in the flesh 150 mm.; wing 70; tail 70; tarsus 21.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but with the chest generally spotted with brownish-black.

Hab. Yemen.

Types in the British Museum: ♂. No. 359, 1. ii. 13; ♀. No. 256, 20. i. 13. Menacha, 7000 ft. G. W. Bury coll.

Pseudacanthis, gen. nov.

The species for which this new genus has been established does not appear to have any very close ally. In general appearance both sexes resemble the male of *Linota cannabina* Linn., but lack the crimson colour on the forehead and breast; the middle primary-quills have the basal half white, and the outer tail-feathers have the white restricted to a narrow band or streak on the inner web next to the shaft.

The bill is shorter and stouter than in *Acanthis*, with the culmen more arched and the basal part of the cutting-edge decurved, almost as in *Alario*. The species also bears some resemblance to the female of *A. alario* (Linn.), except that the latter has no white in the wing, and has the tail-feathers dark chestnut with black shaft-streaks and rounded extremities. The bill may also be compared with that of the smaller species of *Serinus*. The combined characters are, however, so different from those of any Finch known to me that I have been obliged to establish a new generic name for it.

Pseudacanthis yemenensis, sp. n.

Adult male. Much like the male of *Acanthis cannabina* Linn., but without any crimson on the crown and chest. Head and neck grey, paler on the throat and chest; mantle chestnut with dark brown middles and sandy-brown edges to most of the feathers; lower back chestnut with a hidden basal white bar; rump greyish-white; upper tail-coverts grey with black middles, the middle pair being long; sides of the breast chestnut edged with buff; flanks paler; middle of the breast and belly, as well as the vent and under tail-coverts white; lesser and median wing-coverts and scapulars dark chestnut; outer webs and tips of the innermost secondaries paler chestnut, rest of the quills and greater primary-coverts black, except the basal half of the six inner primaries and the basal part of the inner web of the six outer secondaries, which are white; tail-feathers black, narrowly edged with pale brownish-white, the outermost pair with a white band on the inner web next to the shaft, the inner pairs with a white streak along the basal part of the shaft, decreasing in length from the fifth pair to the middle pair, in which it is confined to the basal portion. Bill dull slate-colour; feet dark brownish-grey. Total length, measured in the flesh, 140 mm.; wing 80; tail 58; tarsus 15. Legs and feet very slender.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but with the grey of the crown, throat, and chest slightly tinged with brownish and

the back and wing-coverts less brightly coloured. Wing 75 mm.; tail 50.

Hab. Yemen.

Types in the British Museum: ♂. No. 226, 16. i. 13; ♀. No. 91, 30. xii. 12. Menacha, 7000–8500 ft. G. W. Bury coll.

Obs. "The song of this species resembles that of a Sky-Lark."—*G. W. B.*

Poliospiza menachensis, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *P. reichardi* Reichenow, originally described from Kakoma, German East Africa, and which has recently been procured in South Abyssinia. Above pale brown, with darker middles and paler edges to the feathers of the head and back, giving these parts a distinctly streaked appearance; underparts white streaked with pale brown except on the chin, middle of the throat, and belly. Feet pale raw-sienna. Total length, measured in the flesh, 125 mm.; wing 74; tail 55; tarsus 16.

Adult female. Similar in plumage to the male. Wing 71 mm.

Hab. Yemen.

Types in the British Museum: ♂. No. 354, 31. i. 13; ♀. No. 254, 20. i. 13. Menacha, 7000 ft. G. W. Bury coll.

Obs. This Seed-eater is smaller than its African ally, *P. reichardi*, the bill being much less stout; it likewise lacks the white margins to the feathers of the crown and the marked white superciliary stripes. It is also more remotely allied to *P. leucopygius* (Sundev.) (which is often included in the genus *Serinus*), but the latter may be at once recognized by its white rump and white breast and belly.

Cryptolopha umbrovirens yemenensis, subsp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *C. umbrovirens* (Rüpp.), from Northern Abyssinia, but much paler on the underparts; the lores white, the throat whitish, the chest, sides of the breast, and belly sandy-brown, a little darker on the sides of the breast; middle of the belly whitish, thighs and under tail-coverts pale buff. Iris dark brown; upper mandible slate-

colour, lower yellow at the base and pale slate at the tip; legs and feet greenish-grey. Total length, measured in the flesh, 110 mm.; wing 52; tail 46; tarsus 21.

Adult female. Similar to the male. Wing 52 mm.; tail 41.

Hab. Yemen.

Types in the British Museum: ♂. No. 11, 20. xii. 12; ♀. No. 318, 28. i. 13. Menacha, 8000 ft. G. W. Bury coll.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant also exhibited examples of the Mongolian Black Grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix mongolicus* Lönnberg), of which large numbers had recently been imported, in a frozen condition, to the London market. He shewed several very handsome Greyhens of this form, one of which had the wing fully expanded to shew the great amount of white on the secondary-quills; he also exhibited for comparison a female of the typical Scandinavian Greyhen with the wing expanded. The differences between the two birds were very striking, not only as regarded the amount of white on the secondaries, but also the colour and markings of the upper and underparts of the body. The males of *L. t. mongolicus* were also easily distinguishable from typical *L. tetrix*, males of which were exhibited for comparison.

Full particulars of this form were to be found in Prof. Lönnberg's paper (*cf.* Orn. Monatsb. xii. pp. 105–9. 1904).

The birds imported into the London market came in company with vast numbers of Pallas's Sandgrouse (*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*) and smaller numbers of Pallas's Pheasant (*Phasianus pallasi*). They were said to have been obtained on the western slopes of the Chingan range, which separates Eastern Mongolia from Manchuria, but the exact locality was somewhat doubtful. The birds described by Prof. Lönnberg came from Mongolia, south of the town of Urga.

Through the kindness of Dr. J. A. Clubb, Curator of the Free Public Museums, Liverpool, Mr. Ogilvie-Grant had been able to examine the type specimen of *Lyrurus derbianus* Gould (P. Z. S. 1837, p. 132), obtained by Askew in Russia

on the 8th of May, 1833. This proved to be a female of *L. tetrix* assuming male plumage.

Mr. H. M. Wallis gave an account of the birds arranged under three sections which he had observed during a recent visit to the Balkans, giving the earliest dates on which the migrants and winter visitors were observed, as follows:—

(I.) Spring-Migrants in the Balkans.

Willow-Warbler.	Sofia.	March 29.
Chiffchaff.	Bourgas; singing.	March 22.
	Sofia; „	March 29.
Wheatear.	Bourgas; a single bird.	March 22.
	Sofia; nuptial display, fighting and singing.	March 29.
European Stonechat.	Near Mustafa Pacha; one bird.	December.
	„ „ „ ; a pair.	March 12.
	On the shore of the Black Sea; paired.	March 23.
Redbreast.	Near Mustafà Pacha; a single bird.	Late in November.
Black Redstart.	Kostanitz, in Rhodopes.	April 13
White Wagtail.	Rhodopes.	Feb. 14.
House-Martin.	Nesting in Sultan Selim Mosque; fairly abundant.	April 3.
Swallow.	Near Jamboli.	March 24.
	Sofia; a single bird.	March 29.
	In Servia; several.	April 16.
Cuckoo.	Servia; a single bird in the snow.	April 16.
Hoopoe.	Bourgas.	March 21.
Lesser Kestrel.	Adrianople; abundant.	April 3.
Black Kite.	North of Adrianople; one pair.	April 2.
Flamingo.	Sistova (reported).	March 24.
	Near Sofia (reported).	March 28.
Crane.	Karnobat Plains, Black Sea; a flock of hundreds, resting.	March 24.
Stork.	Philipopolis.	April 1.
	Adrianople.	April 7.
	Mustafa Pacha; at its nest.	April 9.
Glossy Ibis.	Servia; a single bird in the snow.	April 16.
Avocet.	Bourgas.	March 22.
Common Sandpiper.	Sofia.	March 29.
Little Ringed Plover.	Near Sofia; one bird.	March 29.

(II.) Winter-Visitors to the Balkans.

Rooks.	Extremely common in Servia and in Lower Bulgaria until the snow fell; returned to Sofia early in March.	
Sardinian Starling.	Sofia; two birds in a large flock of the Common Starling.	March 17.
Common Starling.	Sofia; left the district during the hard weather, between December and February; returned sporadically in parties to prospect, and came to stay and sing in early March.	
Northern Bullfinch.	Sofia; one pair; fine male.	January.
Siskin.	Sofia; one small flock, two males being in exceptionally bright feather.	January 21.
Brambling.	Sofia; small flocks mixed with Chaffinches, stayed on until the heads became blackish.	January to February.
Great Grey Shrike.	Rhodopes; single bird.	February 14.
Sombre Tit.	Sofia; one bird.	February.
Short-toed Lark.	Stara Zagora; one bird.	March 10.
Song-Thrush.	Lubimetz, Lower Maritza; one bird.	Late November.
	Sofia; one bird.	
	Bourgas; one bird.	March 22.
Short-eared Owl.	Sofia; a pair.	January to February.
Merlin.	North of Mustafa; a single bird.	Late November.
Avocet.	Bourgas.	March 22.
Snipe.	Lower Maritza; a few.	Late November.
Black-necked Grebe.	Black Sea.	November to March.
Red-necked Grebe.	Black Sea.	November to March.
Red-breasted Merganser.	Black Sea; abundant.	March 23.
Shelduck.	Bourgas.	March 22.
Garganey.	Bourgas.	March 22.
Pochard.	Bourgas.	March 22.

Pintail.	Bourgas.	March 22.
Tufted Duck.	Bourgas.	November to March.
Wigeon.	Philipopolis.	March.
Wild Geese.	Sofia, Lower Maritza, Black Sea; all the winter. The White-fronted was the only species recognised near Bourgas.	March 22.
Wood-Pigeon.	Left Sofia in November, returned to Palace Gardens March 15–16.	

(III.) Residents.

Raven.	Quite common: frequents the outskirts of Sofia.
Hooded-Crow.	Abundant: frequents towns.
Jackdaw.	Sofia and other towns: extraordinarily abundant, flies and calls long after dark, and begins again before daylight all through the winter. Very white about the sides of the neck.
Magpie.	Universally distributed.
Common Jay.	Extraordinarily abundant: as many as a hundred being seen in one small oak-wood. (Twenty mobbing an Owl.)
Nutcracker.	Reported to me by a trustworthy friend, who saw it in the Balkans.
Greenfinch.	Rare.
Bullfinch.	In pairs: not often seen.
Tree-Sparrow.	Common in considerable flocks. A much handsomer bird than our form, the head being not chocolate, but a rich ruddy chestnut.
House-Sparrow.	Abundant: differs slightly from the British form, the male having, in many cases, scarcely a trace of chestnut on the head, and being not easy to distinguish from the female when seen from behind. A much duller bird.
Goldfinch.	General and abundant.
Chaffinch.	Abundant: universally distributed.
Meadow-Bunting.	Iskar Gorge.
Yellow Hammer. / Common Bunting.	Abundant: always present around Sofia and other towns.
Reed-Bunting (sp. inc.).	Bourgas.
Cirl-Bunting.	At Kustendil in the west and Bourgas in the east; common.

Marsh-Tit.	Prince Boris Gardens, Sofia ; less common than other Titmice.
Turkish Long-tailed Tit.	Prince Boris Gardens, Sofia : common.
Blue Tit.	„ „ „
Great Tit.	„ „ „
Goldcrest.	Generally distributed.
Nuthatch.	„ „
Tree-Creeper.	„ „
Calandra Lark.	Seen on the waste-country round Adrianople.
Crested Lark.	The "Robin" of Bulgaria. Abundant in every town, and in the railway-stations and goods-yards. Ridiculously tame.
Sky-Lark.	Leaves Sofia during the coldest weather.
Grey Wagtail.	Found wherever there is running water.
Wren.	Nowhere common, but generally heard, and sometimes seen.
Blackbird.	Sofia : frequents town-gardens in snow.
Dipper, Black-bellied.	Chepino Valley, Rhodopes.
„ White-throated.	Above Sofia.
	King Ferdinand only recognizes the latter species in his collection.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.	Higher country, Balkans and Rhodopes : common.
Grecian Spotted Woodpecker.	Lower Maritza : one seen.
Greater Spotted Woodpecker.	„ „ : common.
Green Woodpecker.	„ „ : common.
Kingfisher.	Lower Maritza.
Brown Owl.	One seen north of Mustafa Pacha being mobbed by Jays.
Little Owl.	Frequents villages in snow, so must be resident.
Hen-Harrier.	Seen several times in all plumages near Sofia.
Marsh-Harrier.	Mustafa Pacha : a single pair seen twice, same marsh.
Common Buzzard.	Fairly common around Sofia; some birds were in extremely variegated plumage, with a single deep terminal bar to an otherwise white tail.
Kestrel.	Common : haunts the Zoological Garden for mice
Sparrow-Hawk.	Abundant and generally distributed. Sits on the top shoot of small pine-tree at sunset and strikes small birds coming to roost.
Bonelli's Eagle.	Mustafa Pacha : once seen.

Imperial Eagle.	Common and generally distributed: visits Sofia, flies over city and public gardens. Nests in low pear-trees and in elms, in open country quite close to the railway-line and villages, and may be seen on its nest from passing trains. A mean bird, sits with Hoodies upon the ground. Has a deep cry.
Golden Eagle.	Sofia: once seen, regarded as rare.
Peregrine.	Bourgas: well-identified once.
Wild Swan (sp. inc.).	Seen in the distance on the Danube. (The *Whooper* is known).
Pelican (sp. inc.).	Seen in the distance on the Danube.
Cormorant.	Abundant on the lower Maritza above Mustafa Pacha, *i. e.* a hundred miles and more from its mouth.
White Egret.	Bourgas.
Night-Heron.	,,
Heron.	Universal: common.
Peewit.	In flocks about the grass-country as in England.
Moorhen.	Seen from the train in Servia: not observed or heard in Bulgaria.
Mediterranean Black-headed Gull.	Bourgas.
Yellow-legged Herring-Gull.	Bourgas: abundant, almost a pest.
Dabchick.	Bourgas.
Great Crested Grebe.	,,
Diver (sp. inc.).	A pair on the Black Sea off Bourgas.
Ringed Turtle.	Abundant in all towns throughout the winter.
Stock-Dove.	Abundant, to the exclusion of other forms, on the upper Maritza.
Grey Partridge.	Rhodopes.

Mr. Witherby stated that at the June meeting, on the completion of the 21st Session of the Club, it had been decided to present to Dr. P. L. Sclater the address (which had been circulated) engrossed on vellum with the signatures of the members in facsimile, the whole bound in album form. It was proposed that the silver token should be in the shape of an Ibis standing on a Globe, and a sketch of the design was passed round and approved of by those present.

Mr. Witherby further stated that the arrangements for the Selborne excursion on Saturday, the 12th of July, were nearly complete, and that full particulars would presently be circulated to every member. It was proposed that the party should start from Waterloo at 9.25 A.M., reaching Alton at 11.2, and drive to Selborne. A visit was then to be made to the garden of the "Wakes," for which Colonel A. Bibby had very kindly given permission. After lunch, which would be served at the Queen's Arms Hotel, Selborne, Mr. W. H. Mullens would read a short paper on points of interest connected with Gilbert White and Selborne. The party would then take a drive round Woolmer Forest, the scene of so many of Gilbert White's observations. A return would be made to the Hotel for tea before driving back to Alton to catch the 5.32 train which reached Waterloo at 7.6.

Mr. Witherby felt sure that the members would be very grateful to Colonel A. Bibby for the permission to visit the "Wakes," and to Mr. W. H. Mullens for having kindly consented to conduct the party and to read a paper.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant announced that Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston was expected to arrive in England from New Guinea on the 25th of May, and it was hoped that he would be present at the last meeting of the Session to be held on the 11th of June. By that date a preliminary examination of the specimens would no doubt have been made, and in that case the members might hope to see some of the more important results of the Expedition. It appeared that Mr. Kloss and his Dyak collectors had procured about 1250 birds between sea-level and 8000 feet.

At the previous meeting of the Club, held on the 9th of April, the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain made the following remarks, but the manuscript was not received in time for publication :—

In the course of a discussion on various points in the British Museum 'Catalogue of Eggs,' he pointed out that the statement in Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' iv. p. 545, and Howard Saunders's 'Catalogue des Oiseaux du Midi de l'Espagne,' that *Corvus cornix* was found breeding by Von Homeyer in the Balearic Isles, was based on error, as Von Homeyer in the passage referred to (J. f. O. 1862, p. 252) did not mention the Hooded Crow. He merely stated that he had found a nest, which was not examined and from which no birds were shot, but which he believed to be that of *Corvus corone*.

By an unfortunate oversight the date of the last meeting was incorrectly printed as the 19th of March instead of the 9th of April. The accompanying slip with the correct date is intended to be pasted over this error.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 11th of June, 1913, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.; the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members of the Club intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. Witherby, at 326 High Holborn, W.C.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor, also to supply him with a *written* account of anything intended for publication.]

(Signed)

F. G. Penrose, *Chairman.* W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *Editor.* H. F. Witherby, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CLXXXIX.

The hundred and eighty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, the 11th of June, 1913.

Chairman: Hon. W. Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker, H. G. Barclay, E. Bidwell, C. D. Borrer, W. Fitzherbert Brockholes, P. F. Bunyard, N. Chaplin, C. Chubb, Colonel S. R. Clarke, F. H. Drewitt, M.D., H. J. Elwes, F.R.S., H. Goodchild, C. H. B. Grant, Rev. J. R. Hale, Major H. H. Harington, E. Hartert, Ph.D., G. P. Hony, C. Ingram, Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, C. Boden Kloss, G. A. Macmillan, W. E. F. Macmillan, G. M. Mathews, E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, P. W. Munn, H. Munt, Mackenzie Murray, T. H. Newman, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant (*Editor*), C. Oldham, C. E. Pearson, F. R. Ratcliff, R. H. Read, C. B. Rickett, A. D. Sapsworth, W. L. Sclater, D. Seth-Smith, L. M. Seth-Smith, Major H. A. Terry, C. B. Ticehurst, M.B., N. F. Ticehurst, F.R.C.S., A. F. R. Wollaston, S. J. White, H. F. Witherby (*Sec. & Treas.*).

Visitors:—Col. R. C. Bailward, G. K. Baynes, C. E. Fagan, H. S. L. Fry, Sir William Ingram, Bart., Bruce S. Ingram, T. Wells.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild said that it was with great regret he had to intimate to the Members of the Club that their Chairman, Dr. P. L. Sclater, had met with an accident and would be unable to join them on that occasion. This was the more to be regretted, as the occasion was a very special one, being the 21st anniversary of the Club. During all those years Dr. Sclater had been an unfailing supporter of the Club and had seldom missed a meeting, and the Members had determined to mark the present occasion by presenting him with a testimonial and a piece of plate in commemoration of his long and faithful services.

Mr. Rothschild said that the honour and pleasure of presenting these souvenirs had fallen on him, and that the absence of Dr. Sclater would be as great a disappointment to all the Members as it was to himself. In the absence of his father, Mr. W. L. Sclater had kindly consented to receive the gifts.

The testimonial, which took the form of a beautifully bound book, contained the following short address engrossed in coloured letters on vellum, and signed by nearly all the Members of the Club :—

"IN COMMEMORATION

OF THE

TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

FOUNDED IN OCTOBER, 1892.

"We, the undersigned Members of the British Ornithologists' Club, in presenting this testimonial to Philip Lutley Sclater, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., desire to record our high appreciation of his valuable services as Chairman during the past twenty-one years.

"We would also express our admiration for the way in which he has at all times furthered the best interests of the Club by his untiring devotion, and we feel that the high status it has attained is largely due to his unfailing support."

The piece of plate, intended as a centre-piece for a dining-table, was in the form of a silver Ibis standing on a silver globe and mounted on an ebony stand bearing a tablet and inscription. The Ibis was a copy of the familiar drawing which ornaments the cover of the 'Ibis,' the well-known Journal of the British Ornithologists' Union, with which Dr. Sclater had always been so closely connected as Editor. The globe had the land-areas of frosted silver and the seas of polished silver. This unique design, about fifteen inches in height, together with the testimonial, were handed to Mr. W. L. Sclater, who in a few well-chosen words thanked the Members very sincerely for the beautiful gifts which he had received on behalf of his father. He deplored his father's absence, and explained that Dr. Sclater had recently met with a carriage-accident and was still confined to his bed. He felt sure, however, that if anything could accelerate his recovery it would be the kind thoughts of the Members of the Club in which he had always been so deeply interested.

Mr. Rothschild said it was also his privilege on that memorable night to extend the warm welcome of the Club to Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston and Mr. C. Boden Kloss, who had just returned from their most successful ascent of Carstensz Peak, in the Snow Range of New Guinea. It was a great pleasure to see them back safe and sound, and apparently none the worse, after all the hardships they had endured. As they were there to tell their own story, it only remained for him to present to Mr. Wollaston the Silver Medal of the B.O.U., which had been awarded to him after the previous attempt to reach the Snow Mountains by way of the Mimika River.

Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston gave the following account of the expedition to the Utakwa River, S.W. New Guinea :—

"Our party consisted of Mr. C. B. Kloss, an engineer, five Dyak collectors, and 74 Dyak carriers ; the escort, provided by the Dutch Government, numbered 130 men under the command of Lieut. Van de Water. We left Java on the 31st of August in a Government steamer and anchored a few miles up the Utakwa River on the 18th of September. In seven days all our baggage had been landed and a base-camp established about twenty miles from the sea. A fortnight later we proceeded up the river in six large canoes, which had been made by the Dyaks. Two days' journey took us as far as it was possible to go by water, and there a second permanent camp (Canoe Camp) was made. Three marches from the river a camp was made in the foothills at an altitude of about 2500 ft., and collectors were sent there as soon as possible. When sufficient stores had been accumulated at that place a preliminary excursion was made for six marches into the mountains in the middle of December, and at the end of that month two collectors were sent up to a camp between 4000 and 5000 ft. In the middle of January we set out on our excursion to the highest mountains, and at the ninth camp from the river (about 6000 ft.) two collectors spent a fortnight and obtained a valuable series of birds. Three days' further march brought us to a place (10,500 ft.) from which we were able to reach the highest mountains. We climbed above the snow-line on to the ice-cap of Mt. Carstensz on the 30th of January and the 1st of February, but on neither occasion were we able to reach the summit of the mountain (15,800 ft.). Above 6000 ft. the character of the forest begins to change, the trees are of smaller size and herbaceous plants are more numerous. About 8000 ft. are many Casuarinas, which are replaced higher up by bushy heaths and various flowering shrubs, until at about 11,000 ft. the rocks become so steep as only to support the scantiest vegetation. In the higher regions (above 6000 ft.) animal-life was very scanty. Small Parrots in pairs are seen occasionally, and large flocks of Lories were

found feeding on the fruits of the pandan trees up to 8000 ft. A pair of Pipits were seen in the rocky bed of a stream at 9000 ft., and the droppings of a strange game-bird, probably the *Anurophasis monorthonyx* obtained by Mr. Lorentz on Mt. Wilhelmina, were noticed at 10,300 ft. Beyond that point the only birds seen were a Pigeon (*Gymnophaps albertisi*), a Sun-bird, and a Rock-Thrush. No Birds of Prey were seen above 6000 ft. Insects are remarkably scarce and mammals are very few in the higher regions. A pair of Black Phalangers were caught at 8000 ft. by natives, who refused to part with them. On the ridges about 10,000 ft. were seen many tracks of *Echidna*, and on the rocks above 13,000 ft. were found the droppings of a carnivorous mammal."

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited a nearly complete set of birds procured by Mr. Wollaston and Mr. Kloss during their ascent of Carstensz Peak. The collection, numbering nearly one thousand three hundred specimens, had been received and unpacked two days previously, and it had therefore only been possible to examine them in a somewhat cursory manner; but in most instances the species had been provisionally named. As would be seen from the splendid series of birds displayed on the long table down the middle of the room, the number of species obtained was very large, and it would be difficult to find any country, other than New Guinea, which could boast of an avifauna so varied or so brilliant in colour. Many very rare and interesting species not to be found in any museum in Britain had been obtained. Some, such as the giant flightless Rail *Megacrex inepta* D'Albertis and Salvadori, had already been described, but the addition to the National Museum of such a striking form was, in the opinion of the speaker, a far more important event than the discovery of a new species.

This great Rail bore a curious resemblance to the members of the South American genus *Aramides*, but was of a much heavier build and evidently entirely dependent on its cursorial powers, being incapable of flight. Among the Paradise-birds and Bower-birds the attention of the Members

was especially drawn to *Loboparadisea sericea* Roths., represented by adult and immature birds of both sexes, and hitherto unrepresented in the British Museum. There were also exhibited adult examples, both male and female, of *Astrapia splendidissima* Roths., *Parotia carolæ meeki* Roths., *Loria loriæ* Salvad., etc. A new species, *Paradigalla intermedia*, with its nest and nestling, had also been obtained, the latter having the wattles on the sides of the face almost as well developed as in the nearly adult male. The splendid *Xanthomelas ardens* procured by the last expedition to the Mimika had not again been met with.

Among the Parrots there were fine examples of the recently described *Aprosmictus wilhelminæ* O.-Grant, proving that this form is well-characterised by its black mantle, also examples of *Cyclopsittacus godmani* O.-Grant, *Charmosynopsis multistriata* Roths., and many fine species of Passeres. The following species and subspecies appeared to be new to science:—

Rallicula klossi, sp. n.

Adult male. Differs from the male of *R. forbesi* Sharpe, from British New Guinea, in having the mantle, wing-coverts, and scapulars dark chestnut instead of black. Total length about 190 mm.; wing 89; tail 51; tarsus 38.

Adult female. Differs from the female of *R. forbesi* in having the buff spots on the black mantle much smaller and more numerous; the rump is similarly marked, whereas in *R. forbesi* it is sooty-brown and unspotted. Wing 86 mm.

Hab. Utakwa River.

Types in the British Museum: ♂. Camp No. 9, 5500 ft., 30. i. 13; ♀. Camp No. 6 *b*, 4200 ft., 24. i. 13.

Mellopitta lugubris rostrata, subsp. n.

Adult male. Similar to *M. lugubris* Schleg., but larger and with a conspicuously stouter bill. Total length about 170 mm.; culmen 24; wing 89; tail 52; tarsus 41.

Hab. Utakwa River.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. Camp No. 6 *b*, 4200 ft., 26. i. 13.

Edoliisoma utakwensis, sp. n.

Adult (marked female, but almost certainly a male). Nearest to *E. poliopse* Sharpe, but larger and with the lores and feathers in front of the eye, as well as the chin and upper throat, black; remainder of the upper and under surface light grey with rather distinct dark shafts to the feathers; wings and tail entirely black, under tail-coverts bordered or mottled submarginally with chestnut; under surface of the wings uniform light grey. Total length 250 mm.; culmen 20; wing 133; tail 100; tarsus 29.

Hab. Utakwa River.

Type in the British Museum: ♀ [? ♂]. Camp No. 9, 5500 ft., 30. i. 13.

Obs. In some respects the present species reminds one of the larger *E. anale* Verr., from New Caledonia, which has the entire under tail-coverts rufous.

Anthus wollastoni, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *A. gutturalis* De Vis, from British New Guinea, but easily distinguished by its finer bill and by lacking the blackish bands on the sides of the neck. The lores and superciliary stripes are pale rufous-buff like the chin, throat, and underparts, the chest and breast as well as the flanks darker, and the feathers of the former with a few blackish shaft-streaks. The outermost pair of tail-feathers have the outer web and an oblique portion of the inner web pale buff, the penultimate pair have a terminal wedge of the same colour, but with a more smoky tinge. Long hair-like axillary plumes pale whitish-buff. Total length ca. 175 mm.; wing 97; tail 77; tarsus 28.

Hab. Utakwa River.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. Camp No. 11, 8000 ft., 6. ii. 13.

Paradigalla intermedia, sp. n.

Male vix adult. Similar to *P. carunculata* Eyd. & Souleyet, from the Arfak Mountains, but much smaller and with a conspicuously shorter tail. Nasal caruncles and base of bill

lemon-yellow. Total length about 250 mm.; wing 155–7; tail 75; tarsus 43. In *P. carunculata* the wing measures 170–180 mm. and the tail 167.

Hab. Utakwa River.

Type in the British Museum: ♂ vix adult. Camp No. 6*c*, 5500 ft., 25. ii. 13.

Obs. In the type specimen only the middle pair of tail-feathers are those of the adult plumage and are much shorter than the five outer pairs, which measure about 92 mm. This species is intermediate between *P. carunculata* and *P. brevicauda* Roths. & Hartert, from Mount Goliath. The latter shows the same peculiarity as the present species, the tail in the young being *much longer* than in the adult.

Mr. C. Boden Kloss offered a few remarks on the distribution of some of the species, and pointed out that he believed one of the Pigeons, *Gymnophaps albertisi*, occurred from the coast region to the highest ground, though no example was procured in the latter locality.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S., exhibited two clutches of eggs with an adult pair and nestlings of *Rhamphocorys clot-bey* (Bonap.) and one clutch of eggs of *Erythrospiza githaginea zedlitzi* Neum., all from Aïn Sefra, Sud-Oranais, Algeria. He also exhibited a remarkable clutch of eggs of the Woodchat-Shrike, *Lanius senator senator* Linn., from Saïda, Province of Oran, Algeria. It was noteworthy, firstly, on account of the broad belt of heavy spots round the middle of the eggs instead of at the broad end, and, secondly, in that the clutch consisted of seven eggs —a very rare occurrence.

He further exhibited examples of three species of birds new to the Algerian fauna:—

1. Garrulus glandarius whitakeri Hart., from the forests between Tlemcen and Sebdou. This bird had hitherto been recorded from Tangier only, and a specimen from that

locality was shown for comparison. This discovery raised the number of species of Jays found in Algeria to three, viz. :—*Garrulus glandarius cervicalis* Bonap. (coast and centre of Provinces of Constantine and Alger), *G. g. minor* Verr. (southern part of the Province of Alger), and *G. g. whitakeri* Hart. (Province of Oran).

2. Chelidon daurica rufula (Temm.), from between Tlemcen and Lalla Marnia. This bird had been stated to be an accidental visitor to Algeria, both by Malherbe and Loche, but they evidently wrote from hearsay only, and there had hitherto been no actual proof of its occurrence. Some old nests were found under a bridge.

3. Apus affinis galilejensis (Antin.), from Aïn Sefra, Sud-Oranais. This was the first record of this Swift from Algeria, though the bird was common in parts of Morocco.

Mr. Rothschild went on to say that his recent expedition had been practically confined to the western Province of Oran. In company with Dr. Hartert and Mr. Carl Hilgert, and taking also a trapper to collect mammals, he had first spent ten days at Oran itself, then ten days at Tlemcen. The party then proceeded to Aïn Sefra, the fauna of which proved a great surprise, for although the nature of the country was decidedly that of the "Hauts Plateaux," it was a mixture of desert- and northern forms. Going north again from Aïn Sefra, a few days were spent at Saïda, after which a week at Hammam R'hirha concluded the trip. Besides some 4800 insects and 140 mammals, the ornithological results consisted of 240 birds and 236 eggs (65 clutches).

Colonel Stephenson Clarke exhibited examples of two new African birds which he proposed to describe as follows :—

Stizorhina vulpina intermedia, subsp. n.

Adult male. Intermediate in size between *S. vulpina* Reichenow, from the Semliki Valley and Upper Congo

Forest, and *S. grandis* O.-Grant, from the coastal districts of British East Africa.

As in *S. vulpina* the buff markings on the basal half of the inner webs of the primary quills are sharply defined from the dark terminal portions, while in *S. grandis* they grade imperceptibly into them.

The comparative measurements are as follows :—

S. vulpina.	*S. v. intermedia.*	*S. grandis.*
Wing 92–96 mm.	103–105 mm.	120 mm.
Tail 76–80 „	90– 91 „	106 „

Hab. Victoria Nyanza District : Entebbe and Mbarara, in Ankole.

Type in the British Museum : ♂. Entebbe, 10. xi. 05. E. Degen coll.

Obs. My collector obtained a second male example of this Flycatcher at Mbarara, in Ankole, on the 14th of October, 1912.

Caprimulgus ludovicianus, sp. n.

Adult. Most nearly allied to *C. inornatus*, Heugl., which it resembles in all the more striking characters, such as the white markings on the primaries, the four outer quills having a white patch on the inner web which extends on to the outer web of the second, third, and fourth ; and the two outer pairs of tail-feathers have the terminal half (about 55 mm.) white on both webs.

It is, however, easily distinguished from *C. inornatus* by its much larger size and the more rufous ground-colour of the upper- and underparts, the median and greater wing-coverts being very conspicuously spotted at the extremity or tipped with light red. Wing 174 mm. ; tail 130.

In *C. inornatus* the measurements are : wing 155 mm. ; tail 115.

Hab. South-west Abyssinia.

Obs. I have presented the type of this species to the British Museum. Adult no. 43. South Abyssinia. L. Clarke coll.

Major H. H. Harington exhibited the following new subspecies of Indian birds, which he described as follows :—

Suya crinigera cooki, subsp. n.

Suya crinigera Oates, Birds of Burma, i. p. 123 (1883).

Oates has drawn attention to the fact that birds of this genus from Thayetmyo, Rega District, have the breast unmarked, the black bases of the feathers being concealed, while in *S. crinigera* from India they form a conspicuous feature. For that reason he seemed doubtful whether the Burmese birds belonged to that species or not.

One of the two specimens in the British Museum, collected by him at Thayetmyo, is labelled *S. obscura*, Hume, a name given to immature birds from Kashmir; the other is unnamed.

Adult in summer-plumage. Differs from *S. c. crinigera* in having no black on the breast; the upper plumage is not striped, for though the feathers of the head have the edges slightly paler, they are not marked enough to produce a striped appearance; short supercilium whitish; underparts white tinged with buff. Bill brown, instead of black.

♂. Culmen 11 mm.; wing 57; tail 90; tarsus 23.

♀. „ 10 mm.; „ 55; „ 85; „ 20.

Young. Breast tinged with greenish-yellow.

Winter-plumage. At present uncertain.

Hab. Central plains of Upper Burma and possibly the Shan States.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. Thayetmyo, 1.ix.72. E. W. Oates coll.

Obs. Two breeding females shot off their nests, and one immature bird, were collected by Mr. J. P. Cook at Thayetmyo. Specimens were also procured at Meiktila and Regawbwe. A breeding female from Kalaw collected by Mr. Cook, and another obtained by Col. Rippon at Bampon, S. Shan States, and labelled *S. atrigularis*, are, I think, referable to this subspecies, although decidedly greyer on the neck. A very noticeable feature about this bird is that it is

found in the plains, whilst *S. crinigera crinigera* is essentially a hill species.

Two specimens collected by Col. Rippon on Popa Hill, Mynigyan District, have black bills, longer tails, and traces of a striped plumage ; these may possibly represent another subspecies or *S. c. crinigera*.

I have named this subspecies after Mr. J. Pemberton Cook, who first drew my attention to the differences in plumage.

Suya crinigera yunnanensis, subsp. n.

In the Natural History Museum there are seven examples of this form from Yunnan, two collected by Dr. Anderson in June and five by Col. Rippon in March and April. This subspecies is most noticeable on account of its very dark appearance, and can be easily separated from *S. c. crinigera*.

Male in summer-plumage. Head very dark sooty-brown, almost black, each feather with paler edges, producing a slightly mottled appearance ; back dark brown, the feathers also with light edges ; wings dark brown, outer edges of the primaries light brown ; tail light brown. Throat and breast fulvous-white, the black bases of the feathers showing through ; under wing-coverts buff ; thighs and under tail-coverts darker. Bill (in dried skin) intensely black.

Culmen 10 mm. ; wing 58 ; tail 103 ; tarsus 20.

Female in summer-plumage. In general appearance very similar to the male, but slightly paler, the feathers having broader edges ; also the head is of the same colour as the back.

Wing 51 mm. ; tail 90 ; tarsus 20.

Hab. Yunnan.

Types in the British Museum : ♂ ♀ . vi. 68. Dr. J. Anderson coll.

Obs. The *winter-plumage* is at present unknown. Three skins (sex undetermined), collected by Col. Rippon in March and April, are much lighter than those described, and may be in a transitional stage, the whole upper plumage having a striped appearance caused by the shafts of the feathers

being almost black; the head is of the same colour as the back.

Prinia inornata burmanica, subsp. n.

Adult. Differs from *P. i. blanfordi*, from Lower Burma, in being greyer above; during the breeding-season the males have the bill black. From *P. i. inornata*, from India, it differs in having distinct black subterminal spots on the tail-feathers at all seasons, and the upper plumage greyish-brown instead of brown. This subspecies is, in fact, intermediate between *P. i. inornata* and *P. i. blanfordi*, and as it occurs over a very large extent of country is entitled to subspecific rank.

♂. Total length 127 mm.; culmen 12; wing 51; tail 67; tarsus 23.

♀. Total length 117 mm.; culmen 12; wing 47; tail 54; tarsus 21.

Hab. The whole of Upper Burma, north of Toungoo, and the Shan States.

Types in the British Museum: ♂ ♀. Mandalay, 27. vi. 11. Presented by Major H. H. Harington.

Prinia inornata formosa, subsp. n.

Adult. Differs from *P. i. extensicauda* Swinhoe, from the coast of China, in having, in winter, the upper plumage tinged with green, instead of rufous. In summer it is much greyer than in that species.

Hab. Formosa.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. No. 731. Laulong, 6. xii. 93. P. A. Holst coll. Seebohm Bequest.

Mr. Clifford Borrer exhibited a variety of the Common Wheatear (*Œnanthe œnanthe*), and stated that the bird was a female shot in Norfolk last May. Varieties appeared to occur more frequently in this species among immature birds.

The specimen was of an almost entirely pale grey above, shot with pale buff; the breast pale buff, and the eye-stripe,

which was very pronounced, of the same colour. The eye was of a curious dull white. The wings unusually pale.

Mr. Borrer also exhibited two clutches of eggs of the Common Tern (*Sterna fluviatilis*), of the rare red variety. They were believed to be the first and second sets of the same bird. They had been obtained this year in England: the first set was of a most brilliant red colour, and the second of a duller rust-red.

Mr. Borrer said that these eggs were of particular interest, as this type occurred, so far as he was aware, in one locality only. He had received similar clutches from this colony every season during the last five or six years, and they were believed to have occurred there for an even longer period. It was not likely that the same pair of individual birds should have survived every accident of migration, and have returned to the spot with unfailing regularity season after season. It would appear that a strain of birds had established itself in this colony, whose tendency was to lay eggs stained almost exclusively with blood-pigment; and it was possible that in this manner had been evolved such erythristic types as occurred in the eggs of the Blackcap in this country and of the Dartford Warbler on the continent—the *type* developing from an abnormal *variety* in an individual bird.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited and described a new subspecies of Grosbeak collected by Mr. G. W. Bury in the high mountains of Southern Yemen:—

Rhynchostruthus percivali yemenensis, subsp. n.

Adult male. Similar to *R. percivali*, but with no black on the forehead; the head and nape of a brighter rufous-brown; the mantle browner and the rump and upper tail-coverts darker grey; bill dark grey (nearly black); feet pale pinkish-brown. Total length 160 mm.; wing 92; tail 62; tarsus 19.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but smaller. Total length 146 mm.; wing 89; tail 53; tarsus 18.

Hab. Mountains of Southern Yemen.

Types in the British Museum: ♂. Wasel, 4000 ft., 3. iii. 13; ♀. Wasel, 4000 ft., 25. ii. 13. G. W. Bury coll.

Obs. The occurrence of this Grosbeak in the mountains of Yemen is of great interest. *R. socotranus* is confined to Socotra, *R. percivali* to the mountains of Hadramut, S. Arabia, and *R. louisæ* to the mountains of North Somaliland.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst exhibited on behalf of Mr. W. Eagle Clarke examples of the Hebridean Song-Thrush (*Turdus musicus hebridensis*), and made the following remarks :—

"The native Song-Thrush of the Outer Hebrides has long been known to differ by the darkness of its plumage from Thrushes found elsewhere in Britain, and this was pointed out by the late Mr. Robert Gray in his 'Birds of the West of Scotland' in 1868. This Thrush, however, was not described in detail or named until Mr. Eagle Clarke did so in 'The Scottish Naturalist,' 1913, pp. 53–55. Here he pointed out that the mantle and wings are darker brown; the head slightly redder than in the British race, and the under-surface has the black ovate spots larger, more numerous, and of a more intense black, while the buff colour is paler. The flanks are conspicuously streaked with greyish-brown showing little buff, and the buff of the under wing is richer and redder.

"I would further point out that the juvenile plumage also differs from that of the British race, in the same way as that of the adult.

"The exact distribution of this race has not yet been determined, but it is known to occur in Barra and South Uist. There is evidence to show that a Song-Thrush was resident in St. Kilda about 1840, but is not to be met with there now.

"Continental and British Song-Thrushes occur in the Outer Hebrides on migration and in winter, and since the planting of trees at Stornaway Castle the British Song-Thrush has bred there."

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant remarked that he had recently received a nest with five eggs of the Hebridean Song-Thrush taken in Benbecula on the 16th of May. The nest was placed in a hole among some peats which had been dug some years previously and had become overgrown with dry rank grass. The eggs did not differ in any way from those of the British Song-Thrush. The Hebridean form appeared to be found in all the larger islands of the Outer Hebrides and apparently also in Skye, but in the neighbourhood of Stornaway and in Skye the British form also occurred.

Mr. Claude H. B. Grant said that Mr. Tom Iredale had kindly drawn his attention to the fact that the name *Heteronyx* which he proposed for a genus of African Larks in the Bull. B.O.C. xxi. p. 111 (1908), was preoccupied in insects. He therefore proposed to rename it *Heteromirafra*, and the species must in future stand as *Heteromirafra ruddi* (Grant).

As many members have expressed a wish that an Agenda should be sent out before each Meeting of the Club, an attempt will in future be made to do so, and will commence at the first meeting of the next Session to be held in October. An Agenda can only be supplied if the members who intend to exhibit specimens or read papers intimate their intention of doing so at least two weeks before the meeting. It should be remembered, however, that an Agenda of this kind is generally very incomplete, and it frequently happens that the most interesting communications are received at the last moment. Members, therefore, should not trust entirely to the Agenda.

All communications for Agenda should be addressed to the Editor, at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 8th of October, 1913, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.; the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members of the Club intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. Witherby, at 326 High Holborn, W.C.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor, also to supply him with a *written* account of anything intended for publication.]

(Signed)

L. W. Rothschild, *Chairman.* W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, *Editor.* H. F. Witherby, *Sec. & Treas.*

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Dr. P. L. Sclater, which occurred on Friday the 27th of June.

INDEX.

Abrornis albigularis, 14.
—— formosana, 14.
—— sakaiorum, 27.
—— schwaneri, 28.
—— vordermanni, 27.
Acanthis cannabina, 89.
Acanthopneuste harterti, 36, 82.
—— trochiloides, 36, 82.
Accentor fagani, 88.
—— modularis, 64.
—— ocularis, 88.
Accipiter albus, 51.
—— gentilis, 49, 51.
acik, Chalcomitra, 84.
Acridotheres tristis, 46.
Acrocephalus agricola, 10.
—— schœnobænus, 47.
—— stentoreus, 47.
—— streperus, 63.
—— taiti, 58, 77.
—— tangorum, 10.
—— vaughani, 59.
Acryllium vulturinum × Gallus gallus, 54.
Actinodura khasiana, 82.
acuta, Dafila, 50.
æsalon, Falco, 28.
æstigma, Cyornis, 83.
æstiva, Amazona, 48.
Æthiopsar cristatellus, 14.
—— formosanus, 14.
afer, Eurystomus, 84.
affinis, Larus, 68.
agricola, Acrocephalus, 10.
Aix sponsa, 51.
—— —— × Anas penelope, 53.
—— —— × Anas platyrhyncha, 53.
—— —— × Dafila acuta, 53.
—— —— × Nyroca clangula, 53.
—— —— × Nyroca ferina, 53.
—— —— × Nyroca fuligula, 53.
—— —— × Nyroca nyroca, 53.
—— —— × Tadorna tadorna, 53.
alba, Tyto, 38.
albertisi, Gymnophaps, 103, 106.
albifrons, Anser, 70, 71.
albigularis, Abrornis, 14.
albivitta, Aulacorhamphus, 48.
albus, Accipiter, 51.
Alcedo ispida, 62.
Amazona æstiva, 48.
anale, Edoliisoma, 105.
Anas chlorotis, 49.
—— crecca, 49.
—— discors, 49.
—— penelope, 49.
—— —— × A. crecca, 52.
—— —— × A. sibilatrix, 52.
—— —— × Nyroca fuligula, 53.
—— platyrhyncha, 51.
—— —— × A. obscura, 52.
—— —— × A. penelope, 52.
—— —— × Dafila acuta, 52.
—— —— × Dafila spinicauda, 52.
—— —— × Somateria mollissima, 52.
Andropadus virens, 84.
Anous leucocapillus, 61.
Anser albifrons, 70, 71.
—— anser, 70, 71.
—— brachyrhynchus, 70, 71.
—— fabalis, 70, 71.
—— finmarchicus, 70, 71.
antelius, Larus, 69.
Anthornis melanura, 47.
Anthothreptes hypodila, 84.
Anthus gutturalis, 105.
—— richardi, 82.
—— rufulus, 82.
—— striolatus. 82.
—— wollastoni, 105.
antigone, Grus, 24.
antipodum, Megadyptes, 50.
Anurophasis monorthonyx, 103
apoda, Paradisea, 63.
Aprosmictus wilhelminæ, 104.
Aptenodytes forsteri, 45.
—— patagonica, 50.

Apus affinis galilejensis, 107.
aquaticus, Rallus, 50.
Aquila chrysaëtus, 28.
Ara chloroptera × A. militaris, 51, 54.
arctica, Fratercula, 21.
arcuata, Dendrocygna, 49.
ardens, Xanthomelas, 104.
arenaria, Calidris, 61.
ariel, Prion, 50.
aripoensis, Grallaria, 13.
Astrapia splendidissima, 104.
atrigularis, Suya, 109.
——, Turdus, 87.
aucklandica, Gallinago, 45.
Aulacorhamphus albivitta, 48.
aurantiigula, Macronyx, 32.
austeni, Grammatoptila, 82.
——, Ianthocincla, 82.
australis, Vini, 60.
Avocet, 92, 93.

bakeri, Cuculus, 34.
——, Trochalopterum, 82.
Balearica gibbericeps, 24.
—— pavonina, 83, 84.
—— regulorum, 24.
barbarus, Laniarius, 85.
Barnardius semitorquatus × Platycercus eximius, 51.
batjanensis, Phyllergates, 2.
Berlepschia rikeri, 39.
blaauwi, Psephotus, 56.
Blackbird, 95.
blanfordi, Prinia, 111.
Bleda pallidigula, 84.
bottæ, Œnanthe, 87.
brachyrhynchus, Anser, 70, 71.
Brambling, 93.
brevicauda, Paradigalla, 106.
britannicus, Larus, 68.
——, Lyrurus, 54.
Bullfinch, 94.
——, Northern, 93.
Bunting, Cirl-, 94.
——, Common, 94.
——, Meadow-, 94.
——, Reed-, 94.
burmanica, Prinia, 111.
Burnesia reichenowi, 84.
buryi, Parisoma, 87.
Buzzard, Common, 95.

cabanisi, Turdus, 56.
cærulea, Procelsterna, 61.
Calamocichla jacksoni, 3.
Calandra Lark, 95.
Calidris arenaria, 61.
Calliptilus stepheni, 77.
Camaroptera chrysocnemis, 84.
Campephilus melanoleucus, 47.
Campophaga martini, 18.
—— phœnicea, 84.
—— quiscalina, 18.
candida, Gygis, 61.
canifrons, Spizixus, 82.
cannabina, Acanthis, 89.
canorus, Cuculus, 34, 35, 63.
capensis, Hæmatopus, 33.
Caprimulgus europæus, 21, 62.
—— inornatus, 108.
—— ludovicianus, 108.
carolinus, Scolecophagus, 46.
carunculata, Paradigalla, 105.
Casarca ferruginea × C. tadornoides, 52.
—— —— × Tadorna tadorna, 52.
cervicalis, Garrulus, 107.
Chaffinch, 94.
Chalcomitra acik, 84.
Chalcopsittacus scintillatus, 63.
chalcurus, Ptilopus, 61, 77.
Charmosynopsis multistriata, 104.
Chelidon daurica rufula, 107.
—— urbica, 64.
Chenalopex ægyptiaca × Cairina moschata, 52.
—— —— × Casarca ferruginea, 52.
—— —— × Chloephaga magellanica, 52.
Chenopsis atrata × Anser ferus, 52.
Chiffchaff, 92.
chlorolepidotus, Trichoglossus, 51.
Chlorophonia roraimæ, 39.
chloroptera, Ara, × A. militaris, 51, 54.
chloropygius, Cinnyris, 84.
chlorotis, Anas, 49.
chonensis, Phasianus, 16, 27.
chrysaëtus, Aquila, 28.
chrysocnemis, Camaroptera, 84.
Chrysococcyx klaasi, 84.
Chrysomitris frontalis, 84.
chrysopterum, Trochalopterum, 82.
chrysopterygius, Psephotus, 55, 56.
cinerea, Pseudominla, 83.
Cinnyris chloropygius, 84.
Circus gouldi, 49.
Cirl-Bunting, 94.
Cissa ornata, 82.
Cisticola sylvia, 84.
citreoloides, Motacilla, 75.
citrina, Geocichla, 82.
Clangula glaucion, 18, 19, 28, 29.
—— islandica, 18, 19, 28, 29.
clot-bey, Rhamphocorys, 106.
clypeata, Spatula, 50.

colchicus, Phasianus, 40, 45.
communis, Sylvia, 62.
continentalis, Emberiza, 74.
cooki, Cypselus, 57.
——, Suya crinigera, 109.
coralensis, Ptilopus, 61, 77.
Cormorant, 96.
cornix, Corvus, 46, 98.
corone, Corvus, 98.
Corvus cornix, 46, 98.
—— corone, 98.
Cossypha melanonota, 84.
—— natalensis, 83, 84.
—— somereni, 3.
Coturnix coturnix, 45, 51.
Crane, 92.
crecca, Anas, 49.
——, Nettion, 21.
——, Querquedula, 38.
Crested Lark, 95.
crinigera, Suya, 109, 110.
cristatellus, Æthiopsar, 14.
Crow, Hooded, 94.
Cryptolopha fulvifacies, 14.
—— umbrovirens, 90.
—— yemenensis, 90.
Cuckoo, 92.
cucullatus, Psephotus, 55, 56.
Cuculus bakeri, 34.
—— canorus, 34, 35, 63.
cunicularia, Speotyto, 48.
curvirostra, Loxia, 20.
cyanea, Platystira, 84.
cyanocephalus, Uræginthus, 32.
Cyclopsittacus godmani, 104.
Cyornis æstigma, 83.
—— hodgsoni, 83.
—— pallidipes, 83.
Cypselus cooki, 57.
—— pacificus, 57.

Dabchick, 96.
Dafila acuta, 50.
—— —— × Anas crecca, 53.
—— —— × Anas penelope, 53.
—— —— × Anas strepera, 53.
—— spinicauda × Anas strepera, 53.
—— —— × Pœcilonetta bahamensis, 53.
darwini, Pucrasia, 7.
daurica, Hirundo, 83.
Dendrocygna arcuata, 49.
deningeri, Stigmatops, 6.
——, Turdus, 4.
derbianus, Lyrurus, 91.
detorta, Tyto, 38.
Dicæum trigonostigma, 82.
diffusus, Passer, 84.
dimidiatus, Hyphantornis, 84.
Dipper, Black-bellied, 95.
——, White-throated, 95.
discors, Anas, 49.
dissimilis, Psephotus, 55, 56.
Diver, 96.
dixoni, Oreocincla, 81.
Dove, Ringed Turtle-, 96.
——, Stock-, 96.
Duck, Tufted, 94.
dumasi, Phyllergates, 2.

Eagle, Bonelli's, 95.
——, Golden, 96.
——, Imperial, 96.
Edoliisoma anale, 105.
—— poliopse, 105.
—— utakwensis, 105.
Egret, White, 96.
elegans, Phasianus, 16.
——, Platycercus, 48.
elgonensis, Poliospiza, 17, 18.
Elminia longicauda, 84.
Emberiza yessoënsis, 74, 75.
—— —— continentalis, 74.
eminentissima, Foudia, 26.
emini, Terpsiphone, 84.
Eos semilarvata, 15.
Erithacus rubecula, 62.
erythrocephala, Foudia, 27.
Erythrocercus holochlorus, 32.
Erythrospiza githaginea zedlitzi, 106.
Erythrura prasina, 46.
—— psittacea, 46.
europæus, Caprimulgus, 21, 62.
Eurystomus afer, 84.
everetti, Phyllergates, 2.
eximius, Platycercus, × P. elegans, 51.
——, ——, × P. flaveolus, 51.
extensicauda, Prinia, 111.

fabalis, Anser, 70, 71.
fagani, Accentor, 88.
Falco æsalon, 28.
—— peregrinator, 8.
—— peregrinus, 62.
—— severus, 8.
finmarchicus, Anser, 70, 71.
Flamingo, 92.
flavala, Hemixus, 82.
fluviatilis, Sterna, 112.
forbesi, Rallicula, 104.
formosa, Prinia, 111.
formosana, Abrornis, 14.
formosanus, Æthiopsar, 14.
forsteri, Aptenodytes, 45.

Foudia eminentissima, 26.
—— erythrocephala, 27.
—— omissa, 28.
—— rubra, 27.
Francolinus francolinus, 50.
Fratercula arctica, 21.
Fringilla montifringilla, 28.
frontalis, Chrysomitris, 84.
frugilegus, Trypanocorax, 76.
fulvifacies, Crytolopha, 14.
fuscus, Larus, 69.

galilejensis, Apus, 107.
Gallinago aucklandica, 45.
—— gallinago, 45.
—— megala, 10.
Garganey, 93.
Garrulus glandarius cervicalis, 107.
—— —— minor, 107.
—— —— whitakeri, 106, 107.
gentilis, Accipiter, 49, 51.
Geocichla citrina, 82.
Geotrygon linearis, 13.
—— trinitatis, 13.
—— venezuelensis, 13.
gibbericeps, Balearica, 24.
glacialis, Harelda, 7.
glaucion, Clangula, 18, 19, 28, 29.
Glossy Ibis, 92.
godmani, Cyclopsittacus, 104.
golandi, Heterhyphantes, 32.
Goldcrest, 95.
Goldfinch, 94.
Goose, Wild, 94.
gouldi, Circus, 49.
Gracupica tertia, 15.
Grallaria aripoensis, 13.
—— guatimalensis, 13.
—— regulus, 13.
grallaria, Speotyto, 48.
Grammatoptila austeni, 82.
grandis, Stizorhina, 32, 108.
Grebe, Black-necked, 93.
——, Great Crested, 96.
——, Red-necked, 93.
Greenfinch, 94.
Grus antigone, 24.
—— sharpei, 25.
guatimalensis, Grallaria, 13.
Gull, Mediterranean Black-headed, 96.
——, Yellow-legged Herring-, 96.
gutturalis, Anthus, 105.
Gygis candida, 61.
Gymnophaps albertisi, 103, 106.

hæmatodus, Trichoglossus, 15.
Hæmatopus capensis, 33.
—— meade-waldoi, 33, 34.
Hæmatopus niger, 33, 34.
Halcyon vagans, 48.
Harelda glacialis, 7.
harterti, Acanthopneuste, 36, 82.
——, Stoparola, 2.
hebridensis, Turdus, 113, 114.
helenæ, Laniarius, 85.
Hemixus flavala, 82.
hemprichi, Larus, 25.
hendersoni, Vini, 60, 77.
Hen-Harrier, 95.
Heron, 96.
Heterhyphantes golandi, 32.
—— nigricollis, 84.
—— reichenowi, 32.
Heteromirafra, 114.
—— ruddi, 114.
Heteronyx, 114.
Hirundo daurica, 83.
—— rustica, 20.
—— striolata, 83.
hodgsoni, Cyornis, 83.
holochlorus, Erythrocercus, 22.
Hooded-Crow, 94.
Hoopoe, 92.
House-Martin, 92.
House-Sparrow, 94.
humeralis, Myiospiza, 39.
Hyphantornis dimidiatus, 84.
—— xanthops, 83, 84.
Hyphanturgus ocularis, 84.
hypodila, Anthothreptes, 84.

Ianthocincla austeni, 82.
incanus, Totanus, 61.
inepta, Megacrex, 103.
inornatus, Caprimulgus, 108.
insularis, Ptilopus, 77.
——, Strix, 31.
——, Tyto, 38.
intermedia, Paradigalla, 104, 105.
——, Stizorhina, 107, 108.
islandica, Clangula, 18, 19, 28, 29.
ispida, Alcedo, 62.

Jackdaw, 94.
jacksoni, Calamocichla, 3.
Jay, Common, 94.
joretiana, Pucrasia, 7.

Kestrel, 95.
——, Lesser, 92.
khasiana, Actinodura, 82.
Kingfisher, 95.
Kite, Black, 92.
klaasi, Chrysococcyx, 84.

klossi, Rallicula, 104.
kuhli, Vini, 60.

Lagopus scoticus, 41.
Laniarius barbarus, 85.
—— helenæ, 85.
—— mufumbiri, 85.
—— nigricauda, 32.
—— quadricolor, 32.
Lanius senator, 106.
Lark, Calandra, 95.
——, Crested, 95.
——, Short-toed, 93.
——, Sky-, 95.
Larus affinis, 68.
—— antelius, 69.
—— britannicus, 68.
—— fuscus, 69.
—— hemprichi, 25.
—— marinus, 21.
—— ridibundus, 50.
layardi, Pycnonotus, 84.
Lesser Kestrel, 92.
leucocapillus, Anous, 61.
Leucopsar, 4.
—— rothschildi, 4.
leucoptera, Poliospiza, 17.
leucopygius, Poliospiza, 70.
leucorrhoa, Oceanodroma, 39.
linearis, Geotrygon, 13.
Loboparadisea sericea, 104.
lodoisiæ, Synoicus, 45.
Long-tailed Tit, Turkish, 95.
longicauda, Elminia, 84.
longicaudata, Urocichla, 83.
Loria loriæ, 104.
loriæ, Loria, 104.
Loxia curvirostra, 20.
ludovicianus, Caprimulgus, 108.
lugubris, Mellopitta, 104.
Lusciniola pryeri, 11, 12, 13.
—— sinensis, 11.
luteiventris, Tribura, 82.
Lymnocorax niger, 61.
Lyrurus britannicus, 54.
—— derbianus, 91.
—— mongolicus, 91.
—— tetrix, 39 54, 91.

Machetes pugnax, 50.
macrocephala, Muscitræa, 47.
macrodipterus, Macrodipteryx, 76.
Macrodipteryx macrodipterus, 76.
Macronyx aurantiigula, 32.
maculata, Tyto, 38.
mada, Prioniturus, 15.
Magpie, 94.
major, Tribura, 82.
mandellii, Tribura, 82.
manimbe, Myiospiza, 39.
Mareca penelope × Nettion crecca, 74.
marginata, Zoothera, 82.
marinus, Larus, 21.
Marsh-Harrier, 95.
Marsh-Tit, 95.
Martin, House-, 92.
martini, Campophaga, 18.
maxima, Merula, 80.
meade-waldoi, Hæmatopus, 33, 34.
Meadow-Bunting, 94.
meeki, Parotia, 104.
Megacrex inepta, 103.
Megadyptes antipodum, 50.
megala, Gallinago, 10.
melanicterus, Rubigula, 82.
melanogaster, Otis, 83, 84.
melanoleucus, Campephilus, 47.
melanonota, Cossypha, 84.
melanura, Anthornis, 47.
Melizophilus undatus, 62.
Melopitta lugubris rostrata, 104.
Melopsittacus undulatus, 20, 21.
menachensis, Poliospiza, 90.
——, Turdus, 86.
Merganser, Red-breasted, 93.
Merlin, 93.
Merula maxima, 80.
merula, Turdus, 20.
milanjensis, Turdus, 56.
Milvus milvus, 24.
minor, Garrulus, 107.
——, Sitta, 78.
mitchelli, Trichoglossus, 15.
modularis, Accentor, 64.
mollissima, Oreocincla, 79, 80, 81.
mongolicus, Lyrurus, 91.
monorthonyx, Anurophasis, 103.
monticola, Stigmatops, 5.
——, Zoothera, 82.
montifringilla, Fringilla, 28.
Moorhen, 96.
Motacilla citreoloides, 75.
mufumbiri, Laniarius, 85.
multistriata, Charmosynopsis, 104.
murrayi, Porzana, 61, 77.
Muscicapa striata, 47.
Muscitræa macrocephala, 47.
musicus, Turdus, 20, 63, 113.
Myiospiza humeralis, 39.
—— manimbe, 39.
mystacea, Prinia, 83, 84.

natalensis, Cossypha, 83, 84.
nebularius, Totanus, 28.

Nettion crecca, 21.
niger, Hæmatopus, 33, 34.
——, Lymnocorax, 61.
Night-Heron, 96.
nigricauda, Laniarius, 32.
nigricollis, Heterhyphantes, 84.
Nigrita schistacea, 84.
nigrogularis, Trichoglossus, 63.
Ninox novæ-zealandiæ, 48.
novæ-hollandiæ, Trichoglossus, 51.
novæ-zealandiæ, Ninox, 48.
Numida meleagris × Gallus gallus, 54.
—— —— × Pavo cristatus, 54.
Nutcracker, 94.
Nuthatch, 95.
Nyroca peposaca × Aix sponsa, 53.
—— —— × Anas platyrhyncha, 53.
—— —— × N. ferina, 54.
—— —— × N. fuligula, 54.
—— —— × N. rufina, 53.
—— —— × Sarcidiornis melanotus, 53.
—— rufina × N. ferina, 54.

obiensis, Stoparola, 2.
Oceanodroma leucorrhoa, 39.
ocularis, Accentor, 88.
——, Hyphanturgus, 84.
Œnanthe bottæ, 87.
—— œnanthe, 111.
œnanthe, Saxicola, 62.
Œnanthe yemenensis, 87.
omissa, Foudia, 26.
Oreocincla dixoni, 81.
—— mollissima, 79, 80, 80.
—— whiteheadi, 79.
Oreosterops pinale, 5.
ornata, Cissa, 82.
—— Ptilotis, 68.
orpheus, Pachycephala, 46.
ostrinus, Pyrenestes, 84.
Otis melanogaster, 83, 84.
Owl, Brown, 95.
——, Little, 95.
——, Short-eared, 93.

Pachycephala orpheus, 46.
pacificus, Cypselus, 57.
Palæornis torquatus, 48.
pallasi, Phasianus, 91.
pallidigula, Bleda, 84.
pallidipes, Cyornis, 83.
panayensis, Stoparola, 2, 3.
Paradigalla brevicauda, 106.
—— carunculata, 105.
—— intermedia, 104, 105.
Paradisea apoda, 63.
paradoxus, Syrrhaptes, 91.
Parisoma buryi, 87.
Parotia carolæ meeki, 104.
Partridge, Grey, 96.
Passer diffusus, 84.
patagonica, Aptenodytes, 50.
pavonina, Balearica, 83, 84.
Peewit, 96.
Pelican, 96.
pelios, Turdus, 84.
pella, Topaza, 39.
pelzelni, Sitagra, 84.
penelope, Anas, 49.
percivali, Rhynchostruthus, 112.
peregrinator, Falco, 8.
Peregrine, 96.
peregrinus, Falco, 62.
Phasianus chonensis, 16, 27.
—— colchicus, 40, 45.
—— elegans, 16.
—— pallasi, 91.
—— strauchi, 16.
—— süehshanensis, 16.
—— torquatus, 45.
—— versicolor, 45.
phœnicea, Campophaga, 84.
Phyllergates batjanensis, 2.
—— dumasi, 2.
—— everetti, 2.
Pigeon, Wood-, 94.
pinale, Oreosterops, 5.
Pintail, 94.
piscator, Sula, 61.
Platycercus elegans, 48.
—— eximius × Barnardius semitorquatus, 51.
—— —— × P. elegans, 51.
—— —— × P. flaveolus, 51.
—— —— × Psephotus hæmatonotus, 51.
platyrhyncha, Anas, 51.
Platystira cyanea, 84.
Plover, Little Ringed, 92.
Pochard, 93.
poliopse, Edoliisoma, 105.
Poliospiza elgonensis, 17, 18.
—— leucoptera, 17.
—— leucopygius, 90.
—— menachensis, 90.
—— reichardi, 18, 90.
—— tristriata, 17.
Polytelis alexandræ × P. barrabandi, 52.
—— barrabandi × P. melanura, 52.
Porzana murrayi, 61, 77.
—— tabuensis, 61.
prasina, Erythrura, 46.
Prinia blanfordi, 111.
—— extensicauda, 111.
—— inornata burmanica, 111.

Prinia inornata formosa, 111.
—— mystacea, 83, 84.
Prion ariel, 50.
Prioniturus mada, 15.
Procelsterna cærulea, 61.
pryeri, Lusciniola, 11, 12, 13.
Psephotus blaauwi, 56.
—— chrysopterygius, 55, 56.
—— chrysotis × P. multicolor, 52.
—— cucullatus, 55, 56.
—— dissimilis, 55, 56.
Pseudacanthis, 88.
—— yemenensis, 88, 89.
Pseudominla cinerea, 83.
psittacea, Erythrura, 46.
Ptilopus, chalcurus, 61, 77.
—— coralensis, 61, 77.
—— insularis, 77.
—— zonurus, 63.
Ptilotis ornata, 68.
—— tailemi, 68.
—— underbooli, 68.
—— wesleydalei, 68.
Pucrasia darwini, 7.
—— joretiana, 7.
pugnax, Machetes, 50.
punctatissima, Strix, 37.
pusilla, Sitta, 78.
Pycnonotus layardi, 84.
Pyrenestes ostrinus, 84.

quadricolor, Laniarius, 32.
Querquedula crecca, 38.
quiscalina, Campophaga, 18.

Rallicula forbesi, 104.
—— klossi, 104.
Rallus aquaticus, 50.
Raven, 94.
Redbreast, 92.
Redstart, Black, 92.
Reed-Bunting, 94.
regulorum, Balearica, 24.
regulus, Grallaria, 13.
reichardi, Poliospiza, 18, 90.
reichenowi, Burnesia, 84.
——, Heterhyphantes, 32.
Rhamphocorys clot-bey, 106.
Rhipidura rufofrontata, 47.
Rhynchostruthus percivali, 112.
—— socotrana, 113.
—— yemenensis, 112.
richardi, Anthus, 82.
ridibundus, Larus, 50.
rikeri, Berlepschia, 39.
Rook, 93.
roraimæ, Chlorophonia, 39.
rostrata, Mellopitta, 104.
rothschildi, Leucopsar, 4.
rubecula, Erithacus, 62.
Rubigula melanicterus, 82.
rubra, Foudia, 27.
ruddi, Heteromirafra, 114.
rufigenis, Staphidia, 83.
rufofrontata, Rhipidura, 47.
rufula, Chelidon rufula, 107.
rufulus, Anthus, 82.
rustica, Hirundo, 20.
rusticola, Scolopax, 50.

sakaiorum, Abrornis, 27.
Sandpiper, Common, 92.
Saxicola œnanthe, 62.
schistaeca, Nigrita, 84.
schœnobænus, Acrocephalus, 47.
schwaneri, Abrornis, 28.
scintillatus, Chalcopsittacus, 63.
Scolecophagus carolinus, 46.
Scolopax rusticola, 50.
scoticus, Lagopus, 41.
semilarvata, Eos, 15.
senator, Lanius, 106.
sericea, Loboparadisea, 104.
Serinus sharpei, 84.
severus, Falco, 8.
sharpei, Grus, 25.
——, Serinus, 84.
Shelduck, 93.
Shrike, Great Grey, 93.
sinensis, Lusciniola, 11.
Siskin, 93.
Sitagra pelzelni, 84.
Sitta minor, 78.
—— pusilla, 78.
Sky-Lark, 95.
smaragdulus, Topaza, 39.
Snipe, 93.
socotranus, Rhynchostruthus, 113.
somereni, Cossypha, 3.
Song-Thrush, 93.
Sparrow-Hawk, 95.
Sparrow, House-, 94.
——, Tree-, 94.
Spatula clypeata, 50.
Speotyto cunicularia, 48.
—— grallaria, 48.
Spizixus canifrons, 82.
splendidissima, Astrapia, 104.
sponsa, Aix, 51.
Staphidia rufigenis, 83.
Starling, Common, 93.
——, Sardinian, 93.
stentoreus, Acrocephalus, 47.
stepheni, Vini, 77.
Sterna fluviatilis, 112.

Stigmatops deningeri, 6.
—— monticola, 3.
Stizorhina grandis, 32, 108.
—— vulpina, 107, 108.
—— —— intermedia, 107–108.
Stonechat, European, 92.
Stoparola harterti, 2.
—— obiensis, 2.
—— panayensis, 2, 3.
Stork, 92.
strauchi, Phasianus, 16.
streperus, Acrocephalus, 63.
striata, Muscicapa, 47.
striolata, Hirundo, 83.
striolatus, Anthus, 82.
Strix insularis, 37.
—— punctatissima, 37.
Sturnus vulgaris, 64.
subalpina, Sylvia, 47.
süehshanensis, Phasianus, 16.
Sula piscator, 61.
Suya atrigularis, 109.
—— crinigera, 109, 110.
—— —— cooki, 109.
—— —— yunnanensis, 110.
Swallow, 92.
Swan, Wild, 96.
swynnertoni, Turdus, 56.
sylvia, Cisticola, 84.
Sylvia communis, 62.
—— subalpina, 47.
Synoicus lodoisiæ, 45.
Syrrhaptes paradoxus, 91.

tabuensis, Porzana, 61.
tailemi, Ptilotis, 68.
taiti, Acrocephalus, 58, 77.
tangorum, Acrocephalus, 10.
Terpsiphone emini, 84.
tertia, Gracupica, 15.
tetrix, Lyrurus, 39, 54, 91.
Thrush, Song-, 93.
Tit, Blue, 95.
——, Great, 95.
——, Marsh-, 95.
——, Sombre, 93.
Topaza pella, 39.
—— smaragdulus, 39.
torquatus, Palæornis, 48.
——, Phasianus, 45.
Totanus incanus, 61.
—— nebularius, 28.
Tree-Creeper, 95.
Tree-Sparrow, 94.
Tribura luteiventris, 82.
—— major, 82.
—— mandellii, 82.
Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus, 51.
Trichoglossus hæmatodus, 15.
—— mitchelli, 15.
—— nigrogularis, 63.
—— novæ-hollandiæ, 51.
—— —— × T. chlorolepidotus, 51.
trigonostigma, Dicæum, 82.
trinitatis, Geotrygon, 13.
tristis, Acridotheres, 46.
tristriata, Poliospiza, 17.
Trochalopterum bakeri, 82.
—— chrysopterum, 82.
trochiloides, Acanthopneuste, 36, 82.
Trypanocorax frugilegus, 76.
Tufted Duck, 94.
Turdus atrigularis, 87.
—— cabanisi, 56.
—— deningeri, 4.
—— hebridensis, 113, 114.
—— menachensis, 86.
—— merula, 20.
—— milanjensis, 56.
—— musicus, 20, 63, 113.
—— —— hebridensis, 113, 114.
—— pelios, 84.
—— swynnertoni, 56.
Tyto alba, 38.
—— detorta, 38.
—— insularis, 38.
—— maculata, 38.

umbrovirens, Cryptolopha, 90.
undatus, Melizophilus, 62.
underbooli, Ptilotis, 68.
undulatus, Melopsittacus, 20, 21.
Uræginthus cyanocephalus, 32.
urbica, Chelidon, 64.
Urocichla longicaudata, 83.
utakwensis, Edoliisoma, 105.

vagans, Halcyon, 48.
vaughani, Acrocephalus, 59.
versicolor, Phasianus, 45.
Vini australis, 60.
—— hendersoni, 60, 77.
—— kuhli, 60.
—— stepheni, 77.
virens, Andropadus, 84.
vordermanni, Abrornis, 27.
vulgaris, Sturnus, 64.
vulpina, Stizorhina, 107–108.

Wagtail, Grey, 95.
——, White, 92.
Warbler, Willow-, 92.

wesleydalei, Ptilotis, 68.
Wheatear, 92.
whitakeri, Garrulus, 106, 107.
whiteheadi, Oreocincla, 79.
Wigeon, 94.
—— × Teal, 74.
wilhelminæ, Aprosmictus, 104.
Willow-Warbler, 92.
wollastoni, Anthus, 105.
Woodpecker, Greater Spotted, 95.
——, Grecian Spotted, 95.
——, Green, 95.
——, Lesser Spotted, 95.
Wood-Pigeon, 94.
Wren, 95.

Xanthomelas ardens, 104.
xanthops, Hyphantornis, 83, 84.

Yellow Hammer, 94.
yemenensis, Cryptolopha, 90.
——, Œnanthe, 87.
——, Pseudacanthis, 88, 89.
——, Rhynchostruthus, 112.
yessoënsis, Emberiza, 74, 75.
yunnanensis, Suya, 110.

zedlitzi, Erythrospiza, 106.
zonurus, Ptilopus, 63.
Zoothera marginata, 82.
—— monticola, 82.

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